



KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 25, 2020

Dear Kern High School District Staff:

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. This is an incredibly difficult time for all of us, both personally and professionally. Let's take comfort in knowing we are all in this together as a Kern High School District family. It is increasingly important that we take care of one another and our students.

The Kern High School District's mission is to educate and provide services for our students and families, and provide supports for our teachers and staff members who make all of these things possible. These guiding principles have not changed and remain our focus.

None of us expected that we would have to close our campuses and facilities to students and the public on March 18 in order to help protect the health and welfare of our community. Originally, our expectation was to reopen our doors on Tuesday, April 14; however, the COVID-19 health crisis has continued escalating and that target date is no longer feasible. **Based upon the latest recommendations from Kern County Public Health and Kern County Superintendent of Schools, our school closures will now extend through May 1. At this time, staff is scheduled to report to their site for a non-student day on Monday, May 4, with students reporting back to school on Tuesday, May 5.**

The Kern High School District will continue offering "grab and go" meals at all traditional high school campuses as well as the Nueva Continuation School campus from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm every weekday, with the exception of Good Friday (April 10) and the Monday after Easter Sunday (April 13). These two days were previously calendared as District holidays, without staff reporting for duty. Given the work and dedication of our staff members who continue preparing, and delivering these meals and support services, these holidays are a welcome respite that they both need and deserve.

Throughout the school closures, our commitment to our students and their education continues. When the closure began, our students were provided with packets and distance learning materials. We know it is essential for them to access the curriculum and it is expected they will complete the work provided to them during the closure. If students are having difficulty with materials or have questions, they can reach out to their teachers via email, through one of the available online learning platforms, or by contacting their school site to request assistance.

Teachers, administrators, and support staff have been working tirelessly developing additional materials so students can continue learning, using paper packets and/or electronic-based assignments. In our ongoing efforts to support student learning, the KHSD has developed a library of online resources for staff and

students. The District recognizes not all families have access to electronic devices such as computers, or internet/wi-fi technology at home. Therefore, the District is working to provide Chromebooks and wi-fi access to those families in need. Please be patient with us as we continue developing our strategies. The District will provide updates on this project as soon as possible.

Without a doubt, we are stronger together. I thank each one of you for your unwavering support of our students, schools, District, and community. I hope you all take pride in knowing that, as public school professionals, you are a vital part of the solution to this crisis and you are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bryon Schaefer, Ed. D.
Superintendent