



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

May 22, 2020

Dear East Side Community,

The 2020 Coronavirus pandemic resulted in statewide closures of all schools and shifted the way schools provide learning options to students. These unprecedented times have forced us all to rethink many aspects of day-to-day school operations. In addition, we have been presented a unique opportunity to reimagine and reinvent schooling both during shelter in place and for the future. Much has been learned over these past two months and we must embrace the opportunity to continue innovating based on these learnings.

I want to thank the extraordinary efforts from all members of our organization as well as our students and families that have been stuck at home in shelter in place. This has not been an easy experience for any of us. Your professionalism, compassion, empathy and strength has demonstrated how important education is for our students and our community.

We are waiting for clear guidelines to come out from the Governor's Office and the Department of Education regarding the ability for us to reopen in the fall. Assumptions about health and safety requirements, schedules, instructional models, daily operational activities, and community sentiment play a role in developing a well thought out plan. In addition, the unique needs presented by students with special needs, all the way to Adult Ed need to be considered when planning. The health and safety of our staff, students, and families is the single most important factor for us to protect as we develop our plan to reopen in the fall.

Governor Newsom updated the state about the dire budget situation created by the need to shelter in place in response to COVID-19. It is anticipated that significant cuts to education funding are on the horizon which will only compound the efforts to reopen schools. As we draft plans and explore scenarios to reopen schools, cost considerations must be addressed for any actions or strategies and will depend on the ability to budget and fund these items.

We have arrived at this place in time working together and we will get through this new normal working together to ensure that we all stay healthy and that we provide the best possible education to our students under the conditions created by this pandemic.

We will keep you updated as we enter the summer months. Congratulations to the Class of 2020 and I hope everyone continues to be safe and healthy. Happy Memorial Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Chris D. Funk
Superintendent

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