

April 2, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends,

We've launched our Live Oak distance learning program which is a huge adjustment for everyone. Much thanks and appreciation for everyone's assistance during the materials pick up day on Monday, March 30. It went very smoothly, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation with the social distancing guidelines we set forth to ensure your health and safety.

To reduce the spread of COVID 19, Governor Gavin Newsom and State Superintendent Tony Thurmond advised Wednesday that school should continue to take place via distance learning rather than on school campuses throughout the remainder of the 2019-20 school year in California. Sonoma County schools are responding to this guidance by working extremely hard to ensure quality learning opportunities for students via distance learning through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

These measures are necessary to help Sonoma County and California "flatten the curve" and slow the spread of COVID-19 so that emergency medical responders have as much time as possible to prepare for an influx of patients and save lives. While children generally are not severely sickened by the illness, they can still spread it to older or immuno-compromised staff or family members.

Each district will follow their academic calendars for the end of the school year under distance learning conditions. Should the governor's order end earlier than anticipated, school districts will be flexible and consider resuming classes under the direction of the County Health Officer.

School districts have been hard at work building robust distance learning programs from the ground up. SCOE has diligently supported these efforts with virtual, county-wide trainings for educators as well as individualized support for school districts.

"We want to reassure families that school is not over," emphasized Dr. Herrington Superintendent of Sonoma County Office of Education. "School districts are deemed an essential community service and will continue to provide distance learning, free meals for students, and many other services."

"Since mid-March, school districts have been engaged in the monumental task of building new systems to serve all students remotely, including English learners and those with disabilities," added Herrington. "Teachers, support staff, and administrators are working long hours to provide students access to their academic education as well as social and emotional support that is vital during these challenging times."

As classes remain suspended, many school districts are offering "grab 'n go" meal service to any child age 18 and under. A map of grab 'n go lunch locations is available at scoe.org/covid.

Live Oak recognizes the immense challenges parents and families face in educating children from home. Please continue to stay connected to Live Oak via distance learning and connecting with your teacher and following the distance learning guidelines. Also, I want to clarify that the State is emphasizing that education in California is still compulsory. We are making the effort of distance learning in order to continue with this requirement and to provide opportunity for intellectual, social/emotional and artistic growth. We are expecting that all students are engaged with our distance learning offerings.

If there is any reason that your child cannot stay on top of our distance learning please make the effort to communicate with your child's teacher(s). We realize that it's not easy for parents to motivate or support their children with distance learning. If it is necessary to pause for your student's engagement, please communicate this to the teachers. This way, the teachers will know that their efforts are not being ignored. The teachers are understanding and willing to work with you and make recommendations/modifications if necessary.

Lastly, I just want to say to those in our Live Oak community who are working in public health and services. You must be exhausted and feel anxious about your own health risks and exposure. On behalf of Live Oak faculty and staff, a thousand thanks and nothing but respect for you during this time.

Thank you for your continued efforts and understanding as we navigate through these times. We will keep you posted as things change and evolve.

Best,

Justin Tomola

Director