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Superintendent

July 9, 2020

**Update #3: Reopening Schools 2020-21**

Dear Murrieta Valley USD Community,

The health of our students, teachers and staff has been our driving force during these past few months. Like you, we know that starting a new school year amid this pandemic brings anxiety and uncertainties that may be out of our control. Many have wondered what the school year will look like this fall and some districts have made commitments to opening virtually.

With a little over 20 week days until the first day of the 2020-21 school year, **we continue to plan for all three models of learning**, as outlined in our June 4<sup>th</sup>, communication. We had hoped to have more definitive guidance or specific mandates by now on reopening the school year. The reality is guidance from public health authorities, federal/state agencies, COVID-19 conditions, and health data continue to change weekly, if not daily. What we know today, may very well change in the next few weeks. Therefore, we are offering choices that focus on three learning models in consideration of all students and their family's unique needs.

Since our last communication in June, educators and leadership have been working diligently to prepare all three learning options while keeping health and safety as the top priority. The safety measures being implemented throughout the district are aimed to mitigate, not eliminate risk of illness. No single action or set of actions will eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce risk.

Please know, we continue to listen attentively to your concerns, while paying close attention to the latest health and safety data from our state and county governments. *Next Friday, July 17, we have scheduled a Special Board of Education (BOE) meeting that will be held virtually. At this meeting, we will provide an update on the progress of all three learning models. Additionally, cleaning and safety measures will be shared in detail during this meeting. On Wednesday, July 29, we will present our final plans to the BOE for approval.*

We anticipate the release of critical documents pertaining to re-opening schools between now and July 20. First, Riverside University Health Systems (local Public Health authority) guidance for re-opening schools in Riverside County, and second, a notice from the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) regarding high school athletics, which may also affect secondary co-curriculars and activities such as band.

**In closing, you can virtually listen to next week's Special BOE meeting by visiting [www.murrieta.k12.ca.us](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us) on Friday, 7/17 at 9 a.m.**

We will continue to listen to all feedback and adapt our plans as we seek the safest possible solutions for the community we serve. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kelley, Superintendent

Mary Walters, Assistant Superintendent of Education