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Patrick Kelley
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August 6, 2020

Good Afternoon Murrieta Valley USD Students and Families,

We hope you and your family are safe and healthy. The purpose of this communication is to share detailed information about the upcoming school year as it relates to starting in a virtual learning format.

This communication is lengthy. However, to ensure student success it is critical to provide all families with as much detail as we possibly can; this will alleviate anxiety, stress and planning for the next few weeks of school. This communication includes information about:

1. Virtual learning overview
2. Virtual learning expectations
3. Student learning schedules for all grade levels
4. Technology (devices and programs)
5. Nutrition Services
6. Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports

In addition to this communication, individual school sites are providing emails with orientation and back-to-school details. Between this week and next, all schools are holding orientation with device check-out and textbook pick-ups. If you have not heard from your student/s school, please call them, and confirm your Aeries contact information.

1. Virtual Learning Overview

Virtual learning is very different than distance learning from the spring semester.

How? Students will have a *daily learning schedule* like their in-person/traditional schedule. *Daily attendance* will be taken, and all *assignments/participation/independent work will be graded*. There will also be significantly *more live virtual teacher interaction* and instruction which is often referred to as synchronous teaching/learning. Additionally, there will be recorded lessons for students, known as asynchronous teaching available for students to view at a time that fits their schedule best. Below are some of the key features of Virtual Learning in MVUSD.

- Device and internet connectivity are required
- Daily live instruction and interactions with teacher/s and fellow students based on class schedules (attached)
- Rigorous standards equal to in-person instruction
- Daily use of Canvas, Microsoft Teams and/or Zoom
- Graded assignments, regular progress reports, and reports cards will be given

- Attendance through live instruction, logging in and viewing recorded lessons, submitting assignments/assessments, and/or regular communication with the teacher/s
- Required daily instructional minutes (legal requirement)
- Teacher virtual office hours for academic and other supports

Educational Services Executive Directors, Faythe Mutchnick-Jayx (Elementary) and Jennifer Schriver (Secondary), have *recorded presentations aimed at providing more detailed information* to assist with the transition to school in a virtual environment. To view the video, please click the following text for the desired grade level information:

- [Elementary School \(TK-5th\) Video](#)
- [Middle School \(6th-8th\) Video](#)
- [High School \(9th-12th\) Video](#)

2. Virtual Learning Expectations

The following are virtual learning expectations for students.

- Students will have a device, internet connectivity, and a dedicated learning area for students to participate in virtual learning
- Students will adhere to netiquette (online behavior) and be prepared for learning daily.
- Students will attend and participate in live instruction or log into recorded lessons five days a week, Monday-Friday
- Students will adhere to virtual learning plans and activities provided by their teacher/s
- Students and/or parent/guardian will communicate via email or through virtual office hours with teacher/s when necessary
- Students will ask teacher/s for support when they cannot participate in live or recorded lessons OR are having difficulty completing assignments
- Students will participate in whole group and small group learning
- Students will complete independent work and assignments on time

3. Student Learning Schedules for all grade levels

Virtual school schedules have been established to facilitate student learning.

➤ **First Day of School – August 14th**

Schools are developing special schedules for the *first day of school, August 14th*. Each Principal will send a communication with first day schedule details.

➤ **Preschool**

Our preschool programs are providing instruction in a virtual environment. For more information about preschool programs, contact kisraelsen@murrieta.k12.ca.us our Family Services Director.

➤ **Teacher Assignments/Class Schedules**

Elementary teacher assignments (TK-5th) will be available Friday, August 7th starting at 3 p.m. through the [Aeries Parent Portal](#). Teacher assignments will be found on the 'Dashboard' tab under, 'Class Summary'.

Secondary (6th-12th) class schedules are being distributed this week at the school site's orientation events. If you did not receive your child's schedules and textbooks, please contact your students' school to make an appointment.

➤ **Virtual School Schedules**

Attached are the student schedules for each school level. Please review and print (if necessary) for your student to view daily.

➤ **Teacher Office Hours**

Teachers will begin *Virtual Office Hours* for independent and small groups *beginning on August 24th.*

4. **Technology**

Learning tools for students and tech support for families.

All MVUSD teachers will be using a new learning platform, Canvas, to provide student instruction. We have developed specific "How-To" videos and Canvas overviews for parents, caregivers, and guardians to view. Knowing how the system works will support your student's education and help ease the anxiety of starting a new school year. On the first day of school, teachers will review Canvas, Netiquette (guidelines for online behavior), and the process of live virtual interactions and accessing recorded sessions.

➤ **Canvas**

Canvas information and videos may be found on the MVUSD website located at:

www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/CanvasParent

➤ **Devices and Connectivity**

Devices and internet connectivity are integral to student success in a virtual learning environment. School sites are distributing borrowed devices to students and families who need a device to ensure student participation. If you have connectivity issues, please contact your school site for assistance or information on resources.

➤ **Tech Support**

School sites will have designated staff available to provide students and families with virtual support to address any technical issues students may face during virtual learning. Schools sites will help regarding device and connectivity issues, online learning programs, Aeries Communication, and Canvas questions.

5. **Nutrition Services**

Weekly meal packs are available for purchase and free to qualifying families.

Nutrition Services will be offering weekly meal service during virtual learning sessions for all enrolled/registered students. *Meal Packs, which include breakfast and lunch for a week (5 days) will be free to qualified students only.*

Families who do not qualify for the free lunch program may purchase weekly packs for students. To see if your family qualifies for free or reduced-price meals, please visit: www.MurrietaSchoolNutrition.com

for guidelines and online applications. Qualification is good for the entire school year. If you qualified last year, your eligibility status remains in effect for the first 30 days of school.

➤ ***How will weekly meal packs work?***

- Begins on August 14th
- Student ID number will be required for all meals
- Weekly meal distribution will occur on Thursdays at school sites
- Meals will be packaged for preparation at home (some meals will have to be heated)
- Families may pick up meals from a single school site for all students in the family

➤ ***The pricing for weekly meal packs are as follows:***

- Free (no charge and must qualify/meet income guidelines)
- Reduced Price (\$3.50 per week)
- Full Price (\$22.50 per week)

Please submit an [interest form \(linked in this text\)](#) in you plan to participate in Nutrition Services during virtual learning.

6. Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports

School counselors are available for virtual meetings and phone call consultations.

The physical and mental health of our students and their families are very important to us. This continued state of uncertainty has heightened anxiety and stress for students and their families. This may intensify existing social emotional and mental health challenges and symptoms. *Please know, all MVUSD counselors and mental health therapists are available to assist you.* Reach out to your student's counselor by contacting your school site or visiting www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/SELCounselors.

If you or an immediate family member needs professional support with anxiety, stress or added mental health challenges associated with the uncertainty of this season, please contact your mental health provider or use Care Solace, MVUSD's mental health concierge services available, 24/7 for all Murrieta Valley USD families. Care Solace may be reached at 888-515-0595 or visit, www.caresolace.com/murrietafamilies.

We are committed to your student's education and will continue to communicate with you regarding the status of in-person instruction and the phasing in of a traditional educational setting when permissible.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we reimagine education. Feel free to reach out to your student's school for further information or clarification and view our FAQ: Virtual Learning attachment.

Sincerely,



Patrick Kelley

Superintendent



Mary Walters

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services