



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Education

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December 9, 2020

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

Our District is home to dedicated families, parents, teachers and staff, all of whom are active participants in the decisions we make in the best interest of our 10,000 students. There is no doubt that this pandemic has us all concerned for the well-being of our students, employees, and the families we serve. There continues to be more questions than answers, such as when will schools reopen, will we see high-school athletic competition, when will our children see their friends again?

If you are feeling frustrated, anxious, and/or fearful, I want you to know that we feel it too. We want our kids safely back in school, because that is what we do best. This is a District of academic excellence, a District of championships, a District that is unwavering in its commitment to the arts, and a District that believes the activities and experiences our students gain at school serve them well beyond the classroom.

The closure of our 13 campuses in March was required by state and county orders amid the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and it was designed to protect our students and their families, our teachers, and our staff.

Now it is December, and sadly, public health conditions have not improved. Quite frankly they are worse. On Dec. 6, the State of California issued a new regional stay at home order.

Los Angeles County is currently only allowing a limited number of students to return to campus in selected situations (e.g. students in specialized programs, students learning English, and high school athletes for conditioning). Bonita USD is engaged in the following programs for face-to-face instruction/interaction:

- Over 250 students in specialized programs are on campuses receiving additional tutoring weekly
- Students who are learning English as a second language
- Over 400 student athletes at our two comprehensive high schools for conditioning

In addition, we have over 200 students from grades TK through 8th grade on ten of our campuses who receive child care on a daily basis so their parents/guardians can go to work.

The only waiver available for general classroom instruction in Los Angeles County is for TK-2 students – a waiver that would significantly limit classroom instruction. Given the current health issues, Los Angeles County is not granting any TK-2 waivers until the stay at home order is lifted.

“Preparing Every Student To Live Their Purpose”

As we await an improvement in the community health dynamic, Bonita Unified continues to be committed to evaluating re-opening plans and refining our models to ensure that when we welcome students and staff back to campus, it is done so in the safest way possible.

It would be irresponsible of us to speculate on the future, however, I want to assure you that we are fully engaged and will continue to consider all viable and sustainable options that are made available to us that would allow more students on our campuses.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we want to thank you for your partnership. As things change throughout the state and as the county grants us more flexibility for the face-to-face instruction/interaction that we yearn for, I will send updates.

Until next time, please be safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Coles', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carl J. Coles
Superintendent