



March 9, 2021

Dear Walnut Creek School District Community,

March is off to a great start! Our students are returning to our campuses, health data continues to trend in a positive direction and life is starting to feel a bit more “normal.” This month marks one year of school closures due to the pandemic. While it has been a challenging time, there are many positive learnings to take forward into the new year. We have appreciated your partnership with implementing health and safety practices. We will all need to continue working together so we can keep our schools open.

These last few months will be busy as we wind down the school year. Below are some updates that will give you some insight to what lies ahead.

6-8 th Grade Students Return to Campus

On Monday, March 8th, our governing board voted for our 6-8th grade students to transition to our hybrid model. 6th graders will return to campus for in person instruction on Monday, March 15th. 7th and 8th graders will transition to in person instruction on Monday, March 22nd. Specific site information will be communicated by our principals.

Plans for the 2021-22 School Year

I understand that families are eager to learn more about our status for the fall so you can make educational program decisions for your child(ren). I share the goal of opening WCSD school to all students in our regular schedule, five days a week, at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. At this time, it is difficult to predict the impacts of COVID-19 and what health guidance district will receive for the fall. Please know that I will do everything I can to return our district to our pre-pandemic schedule while adhering to the health orders issued by state and local authorities. Please be sure to fill out an upcoming survey that will include questions about your educational preference for next year.

Strategic Planning/Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

On Monday our Governing Board discussed specific areas that will drive our educational vision. They identified a continued focus on 21st century teaching and learning, Educational Equity and Social Emotional Learning as focus areas for our district. Developing an LCAP that consists of measurable goals with aligned resources is an essential process enabling our district to continue our work in supporting our desired goal of each student meeting their fullest potential. I hope you will join us at one of our engagement forums later this month to give your input on specific action steps in each of these important areas of focus.

Governing Board Meetings

Starting Monday, March 15th, all governing board meetings will be held in person at Tice Creek School in the MPR. This space will allow us to uphold Contra Costa County Public Health guidance for public gatherings. This is a large space with excellent ventilation and a strong infrastructure that will allow us to live stream our meetings. We welcome public comments which will also be accepted in person.

Summer Jumpstart Program

We have begun to plan for our Jumpstart Summer Program. We are planning to hold it right before school begins so that students will feel more confident as they begin their next grade level. The three week program will be held July 19 - August 5. We have not yet determined what sites will host our Jumpstart program. The elementary program will be divided into two sessions: 8:30 - 10:00 (literacy focus) and 10:30 - 12:00 (math focus). Students will be invited to participate based on local benchmark assessments that indicate participation eligibility. Our 6-8 sessions will focus on math, ELD and study skills. We will send invitations to the eligible families to determine their interest, availability and commitment to the dates so that we can continue the planning process.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our important work.

Warmly,

Marie Morgan
Superintendent