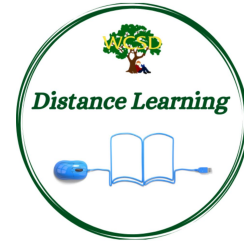


April 3, 2020

Superintendent's Newsletter



Dear Walnut Creek School District Staff and Families,

In the three weeks since we transitioned from teaching students in classrooms to implementing distance learning, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every facet of our lives. Despite the personal and professional challenges our teachers, staff, and administrators are facing as a result of COVID-19, we remain steadfast in our commitment to meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. National educational leader Dr. Joshua Starr recently stated, "Kids are always learning; what they're learning now is how adults respond to a crisis." It is important to model for our students that when faced with adversity, we work through each obstacle collaboratively, creatively, and thoughtfully. We are excited to reconnect with you through distance learning on Monday, April 6th.

On Wednesday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced and reiterated on Thursday that families and educators should operate "**with the expectation now that schools will not reopen.**" At this time, neither the Governor nor the State Superintendent of Schools has issued a formal declaration extending school closures through the end of the school year. However, the Governor's statements certainly indicate this as an expected scenario for WCSD.

Though it is highly unlikely we will be able to welcome students back to campus this year, we are confident that learning will continue, and that every educator and support professional in our district will work tirelessly on behalf of the students and families we serve. As always, the health and safety of our students and staff remain our highest priority and at the forefront of our decision-making. We understand that school will look and feel very different to everyone. Our resilient teachers have dedicated themselves to becoming experts on new platforms like Seesaw and Google Suite. On Monday, you will receive an email from your child/ren's teacher with information about our Distance Learning Plan. This [presentation](#) will give you information about what you can expect next week.

With each situation we encounter in life, there is an opportunity to find gratitude and appreciation. I hope you are able to find moments of gratitude during this challenging time. My gratitude journal is quickly filling up as I jot about special moments from our community and this time with my family. For this week's @wcsup challenge, let's embrace a wonderful idea from [Kids for Peace](#) and send our LOVE to the world.

I feel confident that we will one day reflect on this era in our history as a time we rose to the occasion and surprised ourselves with our flexibility, perseverance, and compassion.

Warmly,

Marie Morgan
Superintendent