



# San Pasqual

## Union School District

*The Little School in the Valley*

Dear San Pasqual Families,

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health and positive spirits. These are some challenging times and I know that the uncertainty of school reopenings has increased the anxiety for many families in our school community. The purpose of this letter is to update you on what we know now and what we expect in the coming weeks and months.

By order of the Governor and health officials, all schools in San Diego County, including San Pasqual Union School, were required to start the school year in distance learning. On September 1, 2020, as a result of improved health conditions in our region, state and local health officials removed our county from the “watchlist” and authorized the reopening of schools in San Diego County to on-campus learning. Such reopenings are determined by each school district and conditioned on adherence to established health guidelines, including screening, facial coverings, distancing, and enhanced sanitation efforts.

On September 2, 2020, we resumed on-campus learning for our most at risk students, including students with disabilities and English Learners. As we prepare to invite more students to return to on-campus learning, we requested parents commit to either on-campus or distance learning for their child. This information was needed to determine whether staffing changes were necessitated and what additional instructional materials needed to be purchased. I know this request caused some discomfort with families feeling they lacked the proper information to make that decision. Please know that our return to school plan includes a thoughtful, safe, and staggered approach in returning students to campus. I hope this letter clears some of that up. Additionally, I will be meeting with parents approximately two (2) weeks prior to each group returning to provide updates and answer questions. After those meetings, parents may adjust their child’s learning preferred modality. Once a child starts in a learning modality (on-campus or distance learning), they are expected to remain in that modality. Changes will be considered at trimester breaks and transfers will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

While our plan is subject to change per health conditions and/or new governmental restrictions, here is the tentative plan for students to return to on-campus learning:

9/21 - TK, Kindergarten, & 1st grade (*Parent Informational Meeting 9/15 at 5pm*)

10/5 - 2nd & 3rd grade

10/19 - 4th & 5th grade

11/2 - 6th, 7th, & 8th grade

Initially, on-campus learning will be conducted on a modified schedule, with all students dismissed prior to their lunch break to avoid students congregating on campus. Class sizes are reduced as a result of declining enrollment, students choosing distancing learning, and a moratorium on new interdistrict transfers. As more groups of students return to campus, we anticipate staggered start and dismissal times to facilitate physical distancing outside the classroom.

For our TK-5th grade students, the instructional model will mirror our current virtual learning program with a combination of live instruction and asynchronous activities. Students choosing on-campus learning will receive instruction and support from their current teacher in the morning and engage asynchronously in the afternoon. Conversely, students choosing distance learning will engage asynchronously in the morning and will receive instruction and support virtually from their current teacher in the afternoon. For our 6th-8th grade students, our return-to-school instructional model remains a work in progress and will be shared with you when finalized.

As you are well aware, safety remains a top concern. We continue to work closely with local health officials and have created a detailed [Safe Return to School Plan](#) to promote a safe learning and teaching environment for students and staff. While the Safe Return to School Plan is quite detailed, here are a few items of note:

- Sanitation efforts have been increased. We purchased additional equipment/supplies and retained additional custodial staff to ensure that classrooms and common areas are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Health screenings are required of all persons entering campus. Students should remain in vehicles with parents present until students pass a health screening, including questions and temperature scan. Parents are encouraged to download and use the [CDC COVID-19 screening app](#) to expedite the daily screening process. Ill students should stay home and will not be permitted to enter campus. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will not be admitted on campus. Symptomatic individuals will be restricted from campus for at least 10 days.
- Cloth facial coverings are required of all persons entering campus and “in transit” (i.e., busses, walking on/off campus, passing periods, etc.) Once in the classroom, the use of cloth facial coverings are strongly encouraged for students 2nd grade and younger and required for students 3rd grade and up. All adults must wear cloth facial coverings.
- Adults on campus are restricted to staff, contractors, and essential volunteers.
- Students will remain in consistent cohorts. During break times, their cohort will be assigned to and remain in a designated area so not to mix with other cohorts.
- Drinking fountains have been closed. Students should arrive at school with refillable water bottles.
- The use of outdoor learning spaces will be encouraged. Students should apply sunscreen and wear a hat daily.

- Students will be encouraged to maximize physical distancing with the goal of 6-feet between them and others. In the classroom, desks have been arranged to promote distancing. In instances where 6-foot distancing has not been achieved, physical barriers have been installed between students.
- Parents or a responsible adult are expected to accompany their child to school and stay until the symptom check is successfully completed. Parents must pick up students promptly at the end of the instructional day and when a child is ill. Failure to pick up students in a timely manner may result in a transfer to distance learning.

I know this is a lot of information and will no doubt change in the coming weeks and months. We will do our best to keep you apprised of those changes. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we create a safe and engaging learning environment for your child during these difficult times. Until we meet again . . . be well.

Sincerely,

Mark Burroughs, Principal/Superintendent

#togetherapart