



Dear Cardiff Schools Staff and Families,

I hope this finds you all well! I am writing to share an update regarding our reopening plans.

Yesterday our Board met to receive a [COVID-19 Reopening Update](#) and discuss how the school year will begin on August 25th. As you are aware, on July 17th Governor Newsom announced a distance learning mandate for schools in counties like ours that are on the state monitoring list due to an inability to meet one or more state metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the case of San Diego County, that metric is case count, where we have been over 100 cases per 100,000 since early July. At this time, case count numbers have not decreased sufficiently and we are confronted with the reality that our school year will begin via distance learning. We are now in the active planning phase for this type of school startup.

We are preparing to begin the year via a distance learning model with the anticipation of transitioning to an in-person learning model when public health conditions allow. Our distance learning model will look different than last spring, with a more structured approach and daily live instruction. Our [Fall 2020 Distance Learning Expectations](#) provides families with more information, including a sample schedule. We are supporting our teachers with this shift by providing them with additional time for professional development, grade level and team collaboration, and planning.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent survey regarding school reopening. Feedback received from parents and staff has helped guide our path forward during this time of uncertainty. The wide range of strong feelings and comfort levels on all sides of this issue from both parents and staff is unsurprising, which makes any kind of path that diverges from public health recommendations difficult. As such, our district will continue to follow the lead of public health in our reopening plans. When we can pivot from distance learning and resume in-person learning, our current plan is to return in a hybrid model in order to limit group size, provide six feet of distancing between staff and students, and allow for greater flexibility within the classroom setting. We will continue to remain flexible, as our goal is a full return to in-person learning as conditions and guidelines allow.

In our hybrid model, classes will be served in two small, stable groups of approximately 10-12 students, attending in-person learning on M/T/TH/F in half day AM or PM sessions, with independent learning activities to be completed during the other half of the school day. The workload and time commitment is that of a full day program. Kindergartners will participate in an academic half-day program until after winter break. Classrooms will be cleaned midday and in the evenings. Every effort will be made to keep siblings on the same half day, in-person schedule.

The AM/PM hybrid model provides students with four days of in-person learning with their teacher and allows for independent work time as an extension of the in-person learning. Other models, including two full days per week, were considered. The AM/PM model was preferred because it helps limit the challenges expressed by



parents and teachers this spring with regard to students having full, consecutive days of independent learning from home without regular face-to-face instruction.

Wednesdays will continue to be a modified day schedule, consisting primarily of independent work for students, while teachers will be engaged in planning, collaboration, staff meetings and professional development.

Our Extended Day program will offer custodial care for working families; students who need custodial care may enroll in Extended Day, as available, for lunch/homework club/additional activities for the other half of their school day and on Wednesdays. Priority will be given to essential workers, and information on this program will be forthcoming, as plans continue to develop.

Outdoor space on both campuses is limited, and we will make use of the available space to expand our custodial care availability and allow for staggered recess breaks and physical education for students when in-person learning resumes. The size and configuration of the outdoor learning space adjacent to our classrooms does not afford us the necessary space to bring full classrooms of students back. However, the outdoor space will be available and utilized for small group learning and the continuous outdoor ventilation will enhance the safety of the learning environment.

We will form full classes of students with the ability to be able to shift flexibly between models. The information provided to us through our parent surveys will assist us in doing our very best to address custodial care needs, keep siblings on the same schedule, and consider parent input as we work to create balanced classes. Families will be notified as soon as possible of their child's teacher as well as their designated morning or afternoon cohort grouping. The cohort groupings within each class will be implemented upon a return to in-person hybrid model learning. In order to prevent gatherings, we are working on an alternate means of posting class lists while also honoring student privacy issues.

We understand that families are anxious to have this information, and we hope to provide this to you as soon as we are able. We will continue to update you as we work diligently to prepare for a different kind of start to the year and concrete information is available. In addition to class placement, we are working with our team on a plan for ipad distribution and scheduling all of our support staff and programs to effectively support student learning in both the distance learning model and the hybrid model.

Our highest priority is ensuring that our schools can safely operate for our students and staff as we prepare to begin the new school year. We are closely monitoring the terms of the preliminary injunction and any resultant effects that could disrupt the smooth ingress/egress of students on the Cardiff School campus.

We will respond to any changes in the public health order by giving our District approximately ten additional days in the current model before pivoting into a new model of learning, allowing time for families and staff to adjust and plan accordingly. When in-person learning takes place, facial coverings will be required for staff and students and clear face shields or clear masks will be available for all staff members.



Our District will continue to monitor the elementary waiver process as information is forthcoming, as it could allow for our most vulnerable learners to have individual or small group in-person learning experiences as appropriate while we are operating in a distance learning model. Considerations for this will be made as details become available.

As a learning community, we are all focused on our students and their academic, physical, and social-emotional well-being. We are putting resources in place to support our students in all areas and we will continue to provide information to our families as the school year draws near. Though it is difficult to be comfortable in this uncertain time, we want to reassure you that we will be prepared as a team to adjust accordingly as public health conditions evolve throughout the school year. Our goal is to ultimately be able to return to full classroom learning as conditions allow.

As a reminder, our Cardiff Virtual Academy (CVA) enrollment window closes at the end of the day on Monday, August 3rd. This program may be appropriate for families that do not wish to resume to in person learning at any point in the school year. A [CVA Enrollment Form](#) and [FAQ](#) detail more information.

In these difficult times, we are so grateful for our students and families. Thank you for being our partner in your child's learning. In this unprecedented situation, finding a solution that all stakeholders will find satisfactory is extremely challenging. I can promise you that we are listening, we will remain flexible, and we are committed to working together to provide a safe, quality school year for each and every one of our students.

Best,

Jill Vinson
Superintendent