

Ontario-Montclair

School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

April 3, 2020

Dear OMSD students, families, staff, and community:

The Ontario-Montclair School District (OMSD) is now fully immersed in providing continuity of education through distance learning, and we hope you are all healthy and adjusting to this new way of learning and teaching. Although campuses are shutdown, this remains a time of learning for our students.

During these times of uncertainty, I have been extremely impressed with the tremendous dedication and support shown by students and families, certificated personnel, classified support staff members, and school leaders. I want to thank each one of you for going “above and beyond” in your continued commitment and patience as we navigate this ever-changing public health crisis. All of you have exemplified outstanding leadership, teamwork, patience and compassion.

As you are likely aware, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in San Bernardino County and throughout the nation continues to grow, and it is concerning that it is too soon to tell when the curve will flatten. As our community navigates this challenging time, we must continue to follow the “shelter-in-place” order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and “stay home” except for essential service activities. We all want students back in school and for our communities to return to normalcy as soon as possible, but not at the risk of health and safety. The most effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic is by continuing to implement social distancing protocols, along with good hygiene practices.

As I mentioned earlier this week, Governor Newsom supported the recommendation made by State Superintendent Tony Thurman to keep schools closed for the remainder of this school year. Additionally, our county superintendent, Ted Alejandro, is in alignment with this decision and recommends all schools in San Bernardino County follow this directive due to safety concerns and the need for ongoing social distancing.

As a result, I have again made the decision to extend the temporary shutdown of all in-class instruction and all extra-curricular activities within the Ontario-Montclair School District from May 1, 2020 to May 21, 2020. OMSD now plans to resume our regularly scheduled instruction at all schools on Thursday, August 6, 2020. This will kick off our new school year.

Staff members continue to work remotely to provide support to our students and families. Voicemails at all OMSD schools and district office will continue to be monitored and staff will make every effort possible to return calls from voicemails within 48 hours. All district staff are being asked to monitor their district emails and communicate in a timely fashion.

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As has been the expectation, if any employee does not need to be on campus and/or not feeling well for any reason, we are asking them to stay home. Any staff member providing essential functions for our district who does not feel comfortable coming to work will be allowed to stay home and now use appropriate forms of leave. These leaves would include those already indicated under state law and within our collective bargaining agreements. Additionally, employees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible to take up to two (2) additional weeks—or 80 hours—of paid sick leave, prorated for part-time employees, prior to any personal sick leave. Employees are asked to work with their immediate supervisor and the Human Resources Department if this pertains to them.

As has been the case since the beginning of the school closures, all contracted employees will continue to be paid as normal through the remainder of the school year and thus through the remainder of the revised school closure dates. The State has also made it clear that it will continue to disperse school apportionments as normal for the remainder of the school year.

Beginning Monday, April 6, 2020, student meal service is scheduled to continue at nine (9) District sites from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of each week. Two meals will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This service is scheduled to continue through the remainder of the school year and conclude on Thursday, May 21, 2020. All meal service will be curbside pickup. The nine (9) District sites scheduled for student meal distribution are:

Corona Elementary School: *1140 N. Corona Ave., Ontario, 91764*

El Camino Elementary School: *1525 W. 5th St., Ontario, 91762*

Euclid Elementary School: *1120 S. Euclid Ave., Ontario, 91762*

Lincoln Elementary School: *440 N. Allyn Ave., Ontario, 91764*

Mariposa Elementary School: *1605 E. D St., Ontario, 91764*

Montera Elementary School: *4825 Bandera, Montclair, 91763*

Ramona Elementary School: *4225 Howard St., Montclair, 91763*

Sultana Elementary School: *1845 S. Sultana Ave., Ontario, 91761*

Serrano Middle School: *4725 San Jose St., Montclair, 91763*

This schedule is subject to change, so please be sure to check the OMSD website regularly for any changes to sites, dates, times, etc. Children no longer need to be present to pick up meals at our school sites, but parents/guardians need to be prepared to provide the name(s) of the student(s) and school in the area where meal(s) are picked up.

We do anticipate serving meals during the summer as well. A schedule of the sites, dates, and times will be announced at a later date.

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In accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order which ensures state funding during school closures, districts are to "Continue delivering high-quality educational opportunities to students through other options, distance learning and independent study." The Ontario-Montclair School District Distance Learning Plan has been developed and will be communicated to site administrators and teachers over the next week. This plan delineates District guidance in order to ensure educational opportunities to students are provided in a consistent, collaborative and reasonable manner. Please anticipate receiving information regarding the District's Distance Learning Plan from Tammy Lipschultz, Assistant Superintendent of Learning & Teaching, in the days ahead.

OMSD is also committed to providing a summer school program for students in need of academic intervention. As of now, the summer school session is planned for July (*pending state orders and county guidelines*) and will end prior to the start of the new school year on August 6, 2020. In preparation for our summer academic intervention program, targeted students will be identified along with ample notification to our families.

Extended School Year (ESY) is typically offered directly following the academic school year for students with IEP's. This year, the school closures have profoundly impacted the typical timeframe ESY is offered. For the 2019-2020 academic school, ESY will be offered later in the summer months (*pending state orders and county guidelines*). If ESY is part of a student's IEP, families can anticipate correspondence from the Special Education Department with the specific dates and times.

Please take care of each other by staying home, practicing social distancing and promoting good hygiene habits. This is about our community, our state, and our country. We are all part of the solution.

I am grateful to our OMSD community for your tremendous support during these challenging times.

Respectfully,

James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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