

Governing Board Members

Donna Rose

Ernesto Smith

Suzan T. Solomon

Isaiah Talley

Brian Walters



NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COLLABORATE | INNOVATE | PERSEVERE | EXCEL

Jeff Pelzel

Superintendent

Dee Jamison

Assistant Superintendent
Instructional Services

Sheri Staszewski

Assistant Superintendent
Business Services

Amanda Montemayor

Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources

September 25, 2020

Dear Newhall School District Families,

Thank you for your patience over the last two weeks. As you know, Newhall School District experienced a ransomware attack on our systems. The District, along with a professional third-party forensic firm and a third-party IT firm, has been working to contain the incident, investigate what happened, and restore our systems. Our priority has been to restore the systems critical for distance learning in order to minimize the disruption to the academic year. Our students resumed distance learning on Wednesday, September 23 and we are continuing to work as quickly as possible to bring additional District systems back online.

You may have concerns over whether it is safe for you to use your personal devices for e-learning. The Google Classroom platform and related applications used for e-learning are not connected to the District's network. While there is always some general risk in using the Internet, we have no reason to believe that this recent ransomware incident will affect your personal devices or home networks as a result of using Google Classroom and related distance learning applications.

Additionally, we still have no reason to believe there has been any theft of sensitive data; however, as our investigation continues, we will update our community about whether any student information may have been accessed.

Shifting gears, we wanted to remind families about the importance of participating in Census 2020. As a point of context, the Census will drive future funding for the Newhall School District for the next ten years. We rely heavily on this funding to support instructional programs, resources, and staffing across the District. If you have not completed the Census, we encourage you to go to <https://2020census.gov/en.html> and complete the short survey.

We appreciate your continued understanding during this time. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your school principal. One last reminder, our fall break is October 2-5, so school will not be in session on Friday, October 2nd and Monday October 5th.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pelzel

Superintendent of Schools