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March 19, 2020

Good Afternoon NSD Families,

Yesterday I participated on a conference call with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the 80 LA area superintendents to discuss the current situation surrounding COVID-19 and Governor Newsom's comments that "students would not be returning to school any time soon". Then at 10:00 am I participated with over 5000 other educational leaders around the state in a teleconference with Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, State School Board President, Linda Darling-Hammond, and many other California Department of Education (CDE) officials to discuss the currently know information around COVID-19, school closures, and other school related issues.

During each phone conference it was made clear that NO decision had been made, at this time, for schools to be closed longer than we have originally scheduled. The Governor's staff explained that his comments were merely ideas he had shared as just another California parent and not as an executive order. We have a weekly meeting with CDE on Friday so we can receive additional information and direction related to school closures and other school related business. We also have a daily LACOE meeting to discuss the most recent updates and information.

As soon as we have information related to an extended school closure, we will share that with our community. Until that time, we are closed until April 1, 2020 and we will remain closed for Spring Break April 2 - 10, 2020. **As of today, we anticipate students returning to school on Monday April 13, 2020.**

Distance learning and instructional continuity continues to be a topic we examine and refine. Originally, we were encouraged to plan for **a two to three week closure, equity of access** for students without Internet and devices, and work that would **maintain skills** during the closure. Now we are being asked to examine, **If we are closed for a longer period,** to attempt to provide distance learning that is more targeted towards introduction of new grade level learning. As we formulate our plans of operation for this new expectation, we will communicate with staff and families to prepare them for this work. **We do not anticipate having any change in student lesson opportunities, format, or structure until after April 1, 2020.** This will only occur if we are anticipating being closed longer than is currently planned.

In the event we are closed longer than the three weeks we were originally told to anticipate, we want to ensure that students are accessing new curriculum, however, we need to arrange appropriate access for **ALL** students and ensure each teacher is prepared to engage with their students in a distance-learning environment. We expect to receive additional guidance on this in the coming days and we will update you as information becomes available. Please know if a change in format is required we will work with families to help provide access to devices, possible Internet solutions, and potential technology support that may be required. Making this type of transition will some work, but we are working toward it IF we need to be closed longer than anticipated.

We thank everyone for their patience and support during this health crisis. Please stay healthy and continue the appropriate preventative measures.

Sincerely,
Jeff Pelzel, Superintendent of Schools