



Superintendent's Coffee Transcript

March 24, 2020

Good Evening. Welcome to the March 2020 edition of the Superintendent's Coffee. As we are all adjusting to this new way of life during the impact of COVID-2019, it is important that each family take the necessary precautions to ensure remaining healthy is a central focus. I am not just speaking about physical health because the time in which we live also has effects on emotional, mental, and financial health. As this new daily life has been put upon us, many of you are experiencing multiple stressors like loss of childcare, loss of routine, loss of job, or things worse. We want you to know that our primary concern for our families is that they remain healthy as they continue to respond to this rapid threat to our typical everyday lives.

As a response to the need within our community, I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting a live virtual conference to discuss tips for families as they deal with trauma regarding physical, emotional, mental, and financial health. We have invited experts in these fields to provide practical, easy-to-implement tips to ensure the health of your family. This Zoom conference will be held this Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Links to register for this conference can be found on our websites, social media, and through Parent Square. Further, we will be broadcasting this conference live on our Facebook page. Please make every effort to join the live conversation. If you cannot be available, the session will be recorded and posted to our web pages and social media for your access. I look forward to seeing you all this coming Thursday for the discussion of this very important topic.

Corona Virus is not going away. According to our Surgeon General, Jerome Adams warns that the next two weeks are going to be bad. There are more individuals who are infected as well as less critical medical supplies to treat these patients. The bottom line is that we all need to adhere to Governor Newsome's order to stay inside. I urge all of you to not leave your home unless you absolutely must do so. For us to properly combat this virus, we must all work in partnership to follow those orders that have been given to us.

As you know, Alta Public Schools is now officially closed through April 3, 2020. Although we were planning on students returning to classes on Monday April 13, 2020 after Spring Break, it looks as though we will be closed for a longer period of time. The LA County Superintendent of Schools made a recommendation that schools stay closed until May 5, 2020. LAUSD has reported they are returning on May 1st, while Long Beach Unified is returning May 4th. We will be working with our Board of Directors to determine when we will be opening up classes again. Please be sure to consult our webpage, social media, and Parent Square to remain up-to-date on this important decision.

As Alta Public Schools continues providing for the educational needs of your children, we will be implementing distance learning. We understand that some families may not have access to

WiFi. We are actively working with California Charter Schools Association to provide internet options for those families. Also, there are options on low-cost to free internet service provided by Spectrum. This information is located on our website.

As we continue to provide support virtually, it is important for you to know the following information:

1. Your student needs to contact his/her teacher daily. This can be done through the digital platform being used for delivery of instruction, by phone, or e-mail. This communication should happen prior to 3:00 PM each day school is in session.
2. We ask that parents/guardians/Caregivers are active in supporting the learning process by
 - a. Establishing routines and expectations
 - b. Defining physical space for your child to study
 - c. Monitoring communications from your child's teachers
 - d. Beginning and ending each day with a check-in
 - e. Taking an active role in helping your child process his/her learning
 - f. Establishing times for quiet and reflection
 - g. Encouraging physical activity and/or exercise
 - h. Remaining mindful of your child's stress or worry
 - i. Monitoring how much time your child is spending online
 - j. Keeping your child social, but set rules around their social media interactions
3. We also expect students to engage in their learning by:
 - a. Establishing daily routines for engaging in the distance learning experiences
 - b. Identifying a space in your home where you can work effectively and successfully
 - c. Identifying a space in your home where you can participate in live online learning.
 - d. Sitting at a table with a wall behind, if possible.
 - e. Regularly monitoring online platforms
 - f. Engaging in all learning with academic honesty
 - g. Communicating proactively with your teachers if you cannot meet deadlines or require additional support
 - h. Complying with school internet safety policies including expectations for online etiquette

As we strive for an authentic program engaging students in deep learning, your roles are very important. The teachers and administrators also have roles to make this partnership work.

Administration

- Establish clear communication channels to all constituencies
- Provide ongoing updates to families and faculty/staff
- Support all constituents in shifting to our continuing learning plan

- Provide guidance, models, and/or examples of strong distance learning units, lessons, feedback, and projects

Teachers

- Collaborate with other members of team and department, as appropriate, to design distance learning instruction for students
- Foster a sense of community and connectedness between and among students.
- Provide students with timely communication and feedback
- Take attendance, record absences, maintain student files
- Create assessments that allow for the ability to gauge student progress during distance learning
- Create ways to continue to collect information and provide feedback that will allow for grades to be reported for report cards/transcripts

As we move through the continued implementation of this process, training for parents will be held to support you in the use of the digital tools your children are accessing. Please look for further communication regarding the dates and times of these training sessions.

Your input is very valuable. Please know that you can reach any school leader through email. We are here for you and want to hear from you so we can address your needs. Further, we will be implementing online versions of our Principal's Coffee, School Site Council meetings, and ELAC Meetings. To locate the days and times of these meetings, please consult the school's webpage and look for Parent Square messages.

Quarter 3 Reporting as well as IEP Goal updates will be completed and delivered electronically or via the USPS next week. If you have not received your child's report card by Friday, April 3, 2020, please contact your school's principal. These grades will only reflect work completed by March 13, 2020.

Some important dates for us to remember are days when school is not going to be in session. We will not be meeting Monday, March 30, 2020 for Cesar Chavez Day, Our Spring Break is April 6-10, 2020. No school work will be assigned. Students return to distance learning beginning Monday, April 13, 2020.

Tonight, Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM I will be hosting a live zoom call for any families, students or other stakeholders to ask any questions of me as we are moving to this temporary new way of life. Information on how to access the Zoom meeting will be shared via our websites and social media.

I want you to know that Alta Public Schools is grateful for the partnership, trust, and understanding as we are continuing to transform education to a virtual method of delivery. We cannot do this without you. Please be sure to take care of your family, remain healthy, STAY INSIDE and let us know if there is anything that we can do to support you during this unusual time in which we are living.

For more information on any of the topics from the Superintendent's Coffee, please see these links:

[Surgeon General's Update](#)

[Stay home except for essential needs - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response](#)

[LACOE Announcement-School Closures](#)

Para obtener más información sobre cualquiera de los temas del Café del Superintendente, consulte estos enlaces:

[Actualización del cirujano general](#)

[Quédese en casa excepto por necesidades esenciales - Respuesta de Coronavirus COVID-19](#)

[Anuncio de LACOE: cierre de escuelas](#)