



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
Denise R. Jaramillo

ALHAMBRA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 2, 2020

Dear Alhambra Unified School District Parents, Students & Staff,

I write today with an important update on our 2019-2020 school year.

For nearly three months now, we have all been dealing with an unprecedented situation, COVID-19. The life we once knew, has been impacted in every way by this pandemic, yet we strive to maintain normalcy in an abnormal situation.

Increasingly, State health officials have made it clear that the safest place to be is home during the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, **we have made the very difficult decision to keep our school campuses physically closed for the remainder of the school year.** This decision was not made lightly, but was made in consultation with health and education authorities, and aligns with the recommendations of Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Debra Duardo, California State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, and California Governor Gavin Newsom. We recognize that this decision comes with many challenges.

Although our campuses are physically closed, school is still in session and instruction will continue. Distance learning is a new experience for all of us, but we are working through the challenges. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our teachers, site administrators, students, and parents who are demonstrating amazing creativity and innovative thinking to strengthen our distance learning program. Thank you also to the caregivers at home for your support. Caregivers, you are instrumental in the District's effort to roll out a successful distance learning program and we thank you for your support, patience, and understanding.

We recognize that there are many traditions that are important parts of the school experience that will simply not take place in the same manner as usual; promotion ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, prom, just to name a few. As we move forward, we will be using this same creativity and commitment to help our students have those experiences to the degree possible. Additionally, we also recognize that there are still questions in areas such as grading, college admissions, and graduation requirements. District staff have been working closely with state, county, and university representatives on solutions to these questions. More information will be released shortly.

Remember, it is important for your child to connect with his/her teachers and classmates on a regular basis. We need to keep our lines of communication and collaboration open so that our students are supported academically and emotionally. Understandably, this situation is very stressful. If your child needs assistance, please contact your site principal or reach out for help at (626) 943-3410 and leave a detailed message, including a phone number.

I am incredibly impressed with how our community has come together and found creative solutions to an unprecedented situation. More importantly, I am incredibly proud of the commitment our community has made to protecting the most vulnerable among us. I am confident that as we continue working together, we will rise to this life-changing challenge in keeping everyone around us safe and healthy.

Please remember that although our doors are physically closed, we are here to support you. We will continue to communicate with you as we get additional information. Feel free to contact us as needed as well.

Sincerely,



Denise R. Jaramillo, Superintendent

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