



DISTRICT NEWS BRIEF & UPDATES

February 24, 2021

From the Office of Superintendent David Alexander, Ed.D.

3150 Education Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95407 (707) 542-5197
www.busd.org



Mission: Inspire learning
Vision: Engaging and ♥ (valuing/caring) for our families, students and staff to empower our community.

Dear Bellevue Union School District Families and Staff,

We are dedicated to creating a safe environment and are very eager to get our students back into our buildings. To this end we have been working diligently and anxiously awaiting the opportunity to provide in-person learning as quickly as possible when deemed to safely return to our schools.

Our goal from the beginning as we look toward returning to an in-person learning model has been to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum, which means maximizing the quantity and quality of instructional time. We recognize our educators have been working hard to provide a quality educational program under the "distant learning" model; however, we believe in-person learning has so much more to offer; including the social-emotional component that can be so challenging in a distance learning model. As we examined the "hybrid" models the largest drawback is it limits direct instructional time. In fact, depending on the model and schedule, distance learning and hybrid models significantly decreases the amount of direct instruction time (up to 70% loss) compared to the direct instructional time a student received in the traditional model (before the pandemic). Why the concern regarding instruction time? The first and foremost importance is based on years of research that if we want to eliminate inequality we must provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum. This means we need to insure we have strong, engaging explicit direct instruction. The second non-negotiable approach to a quality education is the social-emotional connection between the teachers, staff and students. The simple truth is we need to capture the heart before the mind. This is so true as we can all think back to our own school experiences as most people would agree they remember the teachers who cared and believed in them. This close personal connection is very difficult to do over a flat screen as compared to in-person. Possible, yes, much easier in-person. With these two factors in mind, our school district community has been actively engaged to create a solid educational program as we move back into the classrooms.

The challenge is to create a model that maximizes direct instructional time while we will be restricted to smaller groups/class sizes. These factors required us to think differently than others. Across the nation we recognize some students have thrived and others have dived under distance learning. Offering a hybrid with only a few hours a day of direct instruction for students will contribute to a greater loss of the opportunity to learn. Our paradigm shift in the approach to in-person learning has allowed us to create a model which we believe will greatly accelerate our students' learning. At this time we would like to share with you this plan.

We are excited to present this model at an upcoming special board meeting to be held either this Tuesday or Wednesday night (tba on Monday). We will also hold informational town hall meetings for parents in the coming weeks to provide additional information for our parents as well as additional meetings with our staff as we get closer to opening our doors once again to our students.

Rest assured we will have the safety precautions in place, to address the concerns of both staff and families. These details are being finalized and will be published separately in our Covid-19 Safety Plan.

The question I believe we have all been waiting for is... when are our students coming back to our schools? The answer rests on many factors outside of our control. Rest assured we will be ready. A great deal of details will be coming your way in the next few weeks!

Be sure to visit our webpage for current information. The link to our COVID-19 information can be found on the home page as you scroll down on the right hand side. Click on the space labeled, [Click Here for COVID News](#). The latest news and reports including last week's [board presentation](#) can be found on this web page.

We appreciate your support and patience. We recognize there is a great deal of anxiety and yet I was reminded about worrying about tomorrow ...for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Finish strong!

Resources:

1. The SCOE Communications team has developed a frequently asked questions section available now at scoe.org/vaccines. This reflects the most common questions received to date and will be updated to reflect new questions and changing information. A Spanish version will be available early next week.
2. [COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year](#).
3. [Sonoma County Coronavirus Data at Glance](#)

SCHOOL SITE SUPPORT:

Bellevue: Nina Craig, Principal

Registration for 2021-22 School Year Open! Complete it online, call, or come by the office!

Hiring for Special Education Instructional Aide - Please call if you're interested! 542-5195

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Feb. 23 - Supporting Students Emotional Wellness Zoom - link emailed

Weekly Meals and Food Pantry Tuesday 12:00

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00

Email Principal Craig ncraig@busd.org Office Manager, Karina kmartinez@busd.org Parent Liaison, Amy aflorescasares@busd.org with any questions.

Kawana Springs: Denise McCullough, Principal

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online or stop by our office today!

We have openings for Special Education Instructional Assistants- please email Principal McCullough or call the office if interested! 545-4283

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Health and Wellness Challenge #2- See Flyer sent via email/ text for details!

2/26- Student of the Month Assemblies- 8:30 2nd/3rd/4th; 9:15 K/1; 11:30 5th/6th/SDC

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00 p.m.

Food Pantry- Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Grab-and-Go lunches: Tuesdays, 10:00-12:00 p.m.

You may email or call Principal McCullough dmccullough@busd.org, Office Manager Susy Bradley sbradley@busd.org, or Parent Liaison Angelina Estrada aestrada@busd.org with any questions.

Meadow View: Jean Walker, Principal

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online, call or stop by our office today!

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Tuesday, Feb 23rd- Parent Partnership zoom- supporting students emotionally

Thursday, Feb 25th- DELAC meeting (zoom link coming)

Friday, Feb 26th- Mr. Science- zoom link will be provided by teacher

Grab n Go meals Tuesday 11:30-1:30

Food Pantry Every Tuesday 2:00-3:00

If you have any questions please call or stop by during our office hours (8:00-4:00). Masks and social distancing required for the safety of all.

Please call the office or if you have questions email; Principal Walker jwalker@busd.org, Office Manager Ana Peoples, apeoples@busd.org, Office Assistant- Isabel Luna, imluna@busd.org, or Parent Liaison Natali Ramirez, nramirez@busd.org.

Taylor Mountain: Margaret Jacobson, Principal

Kindergarten Registration is open! Register online or stop by our office today!

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

No School Monday Feb. 15

Special Mr. Science Zooms Feb. 18 (teacher provides zoom links)

Coffee Zoom with the Principal: Feb. 24, 9:00 am

Grab n Go meals Tuesday 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Food Pantry Every Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm

Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4pm. Masks and social distancing required for the safety of all.

Please call or stop by with questions: 542-3671; Principal Margaret Jacobson mjacobson@busd.org; Office Manager Julie Roza jroza@busd.org, Office Asst. Hope Leon hleon@busd.org, or Parent Liaison Juana Solis jsolis@busd.org

DISTRICT SUPPORT:

Information Technology, Lawrence Black, Director

We are open at our Learning Center office at 2641 Dutton Meadow from 8:00-4:00 for all parent support needs. English and Spanish support available.

- Email - ithelp@busd.org
- Call - 1-707-544-8164

Human Resources: Siara Goyer, Director

Join the BUSD team! Applications for job opportunities and more at Bellevue Union School District can be found at Edjoin.org. Please Note: While Siara is out on Maternity Leave, Lindsay McLaughlin will be assisting in the HR office. Her email is lmclaughlin@busd.org for any HR questions or concerns.

Food Services, Kayla Todd, Food Program Manager

Curbside meal pick is **Tuesday every week**.

Please note that the meals are "grab and go" and will include 5 days worth of meals.

School lunches are **FREE FOR ALL CHILDREN** under 18, pick up 5 days worth of breakfast and lunch at the following sites:

- 10am-12pm Kawana Elementary
- 10:30am-1:30pm Taylor Mountain Elementary
- 12pm-1pm Bellevue Elementary
- 11:30am-1:30pm Meadow View Elementary

Maintenance & Operations, Roger Farrell, Director

Bellevue Elem: The Electrical/HVAC Upgrade was awarded and the project is scheduled to begin March 1st.

Kawana Springs: We are working with our architectural firm to perform preliminary structural analysis to confirm how best to provide the much needed expansion of our Kitchen, MPR and remodel of our Admin areas.

In addition to these milestones we continued this week to make progress on preparations for the reopening of schools, finalizing the District Comprehensive Safety Plan & the planning required to perform YEAR 2 projects from our [BUSD Facility 5 Year Plan](#) at our other sites.

Business Services, Chris Kim, CBO

Annual Financial Audit: The District's Audit of its FY 2019/2020 Financials is on track to be completed by Christy White and Associated and will be presented to the Board of Trustees on March 9, 2021.

2nd Interim Report and Cash Flow Updates: The District will likewise be presenting its 2nd Interim financial report covering the period between July 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021, at the Board Meeting Scheduled for March 9, 2021. This report will include the most up to date Cash Flow Projections.

Governor's Proposed Budget: On January 8, 2021, the Governor released his proposed State Budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 fiscal year. Governor Newsom's State Budget focused on the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic along with a push to safely reopen schools. Some of the major 2021-22 budget components include: (1) funding for in-personal instruction grants, expanded instructional time, and educator professional learning; (2) a 3.84% compounded COLA, applied to LCFF base grant in 2021-22 and 1.5% COLA for other programs; and (3) funding to eliminate the on-going deferrals scheduled for February 2022 through May 2022. Important to note, Cash Deferrals for 2020-21 remain in place as scheduled.

Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRANS): Due to the State Cash Deferrals taking place in the current fiscal year, the District has partnered with the Sonoma County Office of Education and the firm, Governmental Financial Strategies, to evaluate the need for a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note. In the event that the District is unable to close the fiscal year with a positive unrestricted cash balance in its General Fund, the District may need to borrow from future property tax revenue to meet its financial obligations.

2nd Round of ESSER (Learning Loss Mitigation Funding): A second round of ESSER funds was approved by Congress in December 2020 and funding will be disbursed to LEAs based on Title I allocations. While official details have not yet been released, we anticipate that the ESSER II funds will not be disbursed until the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Technology Director, Lawrence Black

Is your student still on an old clunker? If you are still using old equipment, give your school's front office a call and come in to get your students on the newest and best.

Executive Assistance, Moriah Hart

New student registration is open both [online](#) and hard copy packets available at the school sites. Students eligible for kindergarten are 5 years old on or before September 1, 2021. Students turning 5 years old September 2 through December 2, 2021 are eligible for TK (transitional kinder). Depending on space we may accept students born December 3rd through March 1 to what we call TK plus. To register you will need a copy of the birth certificate, proof of residence (PG&E or water bill, lease), immunizations, physical and dental exam. Please call your school office with any questions.

Check out our COVID news page www.busd.org/COVID for all of our newsletters, board presentations, and links to county and state reopening guidelines that all districts must meet.

In partnership with you,

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Superintendent
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