



DISTRICT NEWS BRIEF & UPDATES

February 8, 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,

It is our hope that we find you in good health and keeping safe. We all recognize that these are trying times for everyone and our mission and vision in the Bellevue Union School District has not wavered, not one inch. I believe everyone in our organization and community would greatly appreciate seeing our students return to an in-person educational model when deemed safe to do so. At this time, we would like to provide the most current information on our road back to an in-person educational model.

On behalf of our BUSD Board of Trustees I would like to share a common sentiment that was brought out during a Special Board Meeting this last Wednesday night. The special board meeting was held due to a Resolution that was board approved back on December 8, 2020 that extended the non-use of in-person instruction to February 8, 2021 was due to expire. Considering the next regular board meeting is not scheduled until February 16, 2021, it was necessary to hold a special board meeting to allow our school board the opportunity to discuss this issue. The common theme was safety for our students, staff and community and the desire to get our students back to in person. Each one of our board members expressed their concerns and directed the superintendent to draw up a resolution to extend the non-use of in-person instruction to March 16th or when deemed safe to return to in-person learning. This resolution will be considered at the February 16th board meeting. Our school board would like to express to our community considering our current local data that there is a chance that we may not be returning for the rest of the year. Our reassurance is that we have an incredible staff that is providing the best distance learning program possible. In addition, we have an excellent leadership team working diligently on all the pieces of the plan to be in place when it is safe to return to schools. In the meanwhile our staff continues to work on the many plans and mandates to ensure we can return to in-person learning as soon as possible.

One of the components to return to in-person education is that all school districts must complete and post to their website the newly required COVID-19 Safety Plan prior to opening. The CSP consists of two components: The first is the [Covid-19 School Safety Checklist](#): Each school will need to have this completed and approved prior to reopening while in the purple tier. The second is the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP). We are completing our checklist and our CPP is posted on our district website.

We are also finalizing the revision of our original Return to School Plan. The new [BUSD ReOpening to School Plan - Revision 1/21](#) incorporates a great amount of input from the District Strategic Planning Team 2.0, an education sub committee as well as working with all our teachers. This plan not only updates the health and safety section with the most current information, but also creates a powerful educational model to maximize learning time. As we finalize the plan we are seeking final input into the plan. The link above will provide access to the final draft. Please email me with any input by Friday, February 12, 2021 as we are planning to present the plan at an upcoming board meeting.

Yes, the many plans and required documents are a bit redundant in content, yet the process has allowed us to carefully examine our safe return to a new in-person model.

School Reopening and Vaccination Update for the Sonoma County School Community

Dr Herrinton, Superintendent of Sonoma County School has shared with Sonoma County school leaders the following letter providing an update for the school community on school reopening and vaccination. It is his hope this information may be helpful to you as well in communicating about the effort to reopen schools in our community. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Although last week's delays in the SCOE Vaccination Plan for school employees were disappointing (and by all means no fault of those who have been putting in a lot of work to make this happen for us), there is progress. Most recently on Friday afternoon, The Public Health Department approved the request for 1100 doses of vaccine to be administered to eligible educators beginning Monday, February 8. The Public Health Department defined the first group as:

1. **Age 70 or older at the date the vaccination is given, or**
2. **Educators of any age who currently have regular, direct contact with students**

Our employees who are eligible for the vaccine were contacted by their supervisor on how to make an appointment. The appointments filled quickly; however, a waiting list has been created and they are working on making more time slots. Please honor the system. Anyone not meeting the eligibility criteria described above will be turned away at the vaccination site. Let's not be the one who jumps the line. Thank you.

As we move forward we are continuing negotiations with our teacher's union for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as it pertains to working conditions pertaining to the return to school in-person.

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:

Special Science Zooms Feb. 12 (teacher provides zoom links)

Parent Coffee Feb. 12, 9:00am (school texts zoom link)

No School Monday Feb. 8 & 15

Weekly Meals Tuesday 12:00-2:00

Food Pantry Tuesdays 12:00pm

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

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

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

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Dual Immersion Virtual Presentation- Friday, 2/12, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

No School Monday, Feb 8 & 15th

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:

Mr. Science is coming to your child's digital classroom very soon. Come by the TM office to pick up your bag of science supplies today!

No School Monday Feb. 8 & 15

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:

Curriculum and English Learners, Aracely Romo-Flores

As you may know, our emerging bilingual students (English learners) have a heavy lift of not only learning the grade-level standards expected of all students, but they are charged with doing this while also learning a new language. This is why when students receive an overall level 4 on the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC), a rigorous language assessment, it's a BIG Deal! Not only is it a celebration of our students' language learning, but it's also a celebration of the GREAT teachers that helped them to accomplish this! Congratulations to our most recent 72 BUSD students for their reclassification this year from English Learners (emerging bilingual students) to Reclassified English Proficient (R-FEP) students! As a result of this milestone, these students will no longer require Designated ELD AND when they move on to middle school that means they will be able to take an elective class versus an ELD class. And...when they move on to high school they will be more likely to complete the a-g requirements which gives them the option of applying to a four-year college after graduation. This is what we want for all of our students and it requires a lot of work on behalf of students and teachers, as well strong partnerships with our families. Thank you all!

Student Services, Tracy Whitaker, Director

Our Special Education Teacher, Speech Therapists, School Psychologists, Counselors, Occupational Therapist, Behaviorists, and Physical Therapists continue to provide services to our students with special needs. Thank you for all the work you do to support our students in any situation--in person or distance learning.

We have another Parent Participation Night coming up on February 23, 2021 at 4:30. It is now open to all district families. The topic is **Supporting Social Emotional Wellness during Distance Learning**. Our School Psychologist and School Counselors will be there to share helpful information. Spanish interpretation will be available. Put it on your calendar! Click here for the [Zoom Link](#).

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!

We currently have the following opportunities:

3 hour/ day Dishwasher at Taylor Mountain

Several Special Education Instructional Assistant Positions

Several Student Supervisor Positions

Several Literacy Paraprofessional Positions

Applications for these exciting job opportunities and more at Bellevue Union School District can be found at [Edjoin.org](https://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.

Reminder: 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 (*new time*)
- 11:30am-1:30pm Meadow View Elementary

Business Services, Chris Kim, CBO

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.

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.

Annual Audit Presentation: The District's Audit of its FY 2019/2020 Financials is on track to be completed by Christy White and Associates and will be presented to the Board of Trustees on February 16, 2021.

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.

In partnership with you,

Dr. David Alexander
Superintendent
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