



DISTRICT NEWS BRIEF & UPDATES

March 1, 2021

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

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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,

Theodore Roosevelt, American statesman, conservationist, naturalist, historian, and writer, who served as the 26th president of the United States stated, *"Nothing worth having comes easy."* And how true have we realized this as we have been diligently attempting to bring our students back to our schools. Between sorting out countless national, state and local guidelines to understanding the science of the COVID-19 pandemic to just trying to figure out how all this works while providing a distance learning education has been at times overwhelming. In addition, we recognize there is a great amount left to do. And yet despite a few growing pains (o.k., a lot) we realize we really have the right staff to move forward. No one said this was going to be easy or we would please everyone. Our efforts must continue as a collective team of professionals with the goal of educating our students back on our campuses. I am hopeful that one day soon we will all look back at this time in history and will be able to express perhaps in simpler terms as such:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." —
Theodore Roosevelt

We all recognize this has been hard, really hard, especially for those in our community who have lost family members, who have lost jobs or income, or have faced great obstacles to get through day by day. The truth of the matter is we will only get through this if we work together. And for us in the Bellevue Union School District, there is nothing more noble and humbling than to serve your children and support your families to our greatest extent possible.

Public Health anticipates we will move into the Red Tier in March.

Good News and Good News! Local COVID-19 metrics are improving and our hard work for our reopening plans are paying off. We will continue to monitor local health and safety metrics and we will be prepared when deemed safe to return to an in-person instructional model.

Date of Reopening to In-person Instruction?

The answer continues to rest on many factors outside of our immediate control. Our current board resolution which addresses our reopening date indicates our school district will continue with non in-person instruction

(distance learning) through March 16th. Our BUSD school board will be discussing this topic at the next regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, March 9th.

In-person Instructional Model Approved

On Tuesday, February 24th, the BUSD Board of Trustees approved the [ReOpening to School Plan: Our Transitional Plan from Distance Learning to In-Person Teaching and Learning](#). **Please take the time to review the presentation: [ReOpening to School Plan: Our Transitional Plan from Distance Learning to In-Person Teaching and Learning](#) and plan as it contains important information as we transition to an in-person educational model.** The plan was modified from the original board approved Return to School Plan from August 4, 2020, to incorporate the latest Health and Safety guidance and Teaching and Learning plans. The COVID-19 Safety Plan includes the health and safety aspects of our plans and will be presented at the March 9, 2021 Board meeting.

Thank you!

On behalf of our students, we would like to express our appreciation to our school community, staff members and leadership teams for your participation in the development of this plan. A special thank you to the members of the District Strategic Planning Team 2.1 & 2.0 teams, Educational Sub-Committee, Curriculum Committee, teachers, staff, parents and community members who provided input in creating this plan (please see presentation slides for individual members in the various teams and meetings). The purpose of the reopening planning process was to provide a forum for sharing information and receiving input from our stakeholders. The input gathered was intended to provide advice to our district leadership team, superintendent and ultimately our school board. In such a situation where there are many individuals and advocating special interest groups, this process at times felt overwhelming and often paralyzed by constant changes in guidelines and local influences. So how to get the most of this type of situation? Simple, gather as much input as possible and drive this input back to the outcome desired. In our case, all input is considered, however, we never left sight of what has been entrusted in us to accomplish:

California Education Code 43504 requires school districts to “offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible”

Accepting anything less or compromising this requirement would be a disservice to our students. Our expectations and careful consideration were always measured on mega research for maximizing the in-person instructional time for students. From the beginning the overwhelming majority of input was related to health and safety; however, we are confident that our COVID-19 Safety Plan will cover all the concerns brought forth. Please note: The COVID-19 Safety Plan includes the health and safety aspects of our plans and will be presented at the March 9, 2021 Board meeting.

The Best Reopening Educational Model

As we move toward moving back to an in-person instructional model from a distance learning model, we must recognize the major barrier to bringing back all our students lies with 6 foot social distancing guidance and therefore the shortage of classrooms and teaching staff to bring back all the students at once. This obstacle led to the concept of the hybrid models. The majority of the hybrid models being considered over the last year fell into three categories, with only one being variable (and the one that was indicated in the parent survey from June 26, 2020). Since then the AB hybrid remains the most preferable and has been adapted in many ways. Primarily the AB Hybrid model is preferable due to the ability to clean and disinfect between stable groups more efficiently, can be utilized with transportation schedules and most importantly brings students back to in-person learning. Although, variations in the AB hybrid have evolved, as well as some recently crafted models, it is critical to closely examine the actual amount of in-person direct instruction with the teacher and students. Offering in-person learning, is a critical component of our model.

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

Insert from last our newsletter: *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, but much more successful 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.*

BUSD A/B Hybrid Concurrent Model

We have taken the basic premise of the A/B Hybrid model and have greatly improved its efficacy. The BUSD approved education model is simply the AB Hybrid model with a synchronous technology element that allows the teacher to teach all their students all at the same time. In this way our students will greatly increase the amount of in-person instruction they will receive. This methodology is often referred to as synchronous learning. **Please watch this video to get an idea what this model looks like:** [A primary school example](#). Please note our technology set up is going to be different and flexible compared to this video. Please watch this video to understand one example of how we can set up with the new technology we have purchased: How is BUSD preparing to support a successful concurrent hybrid model? ([click her for the link](#))

Since our Board presentation we have revised the graphic representation of the model for clarification.

BUSD A/B Hybrid Concurrent Model

(Option 1: In-Person & Distance Learning and Option 2: Full-Time Distance Learning)

- ★ The teacher conducts instruction with all students in class and online simultaneously.
- ★ All students simultaneously have access to the teacher and each other.
- ★ Provides more learning time with teachers and classmates.
- ★ Provides opportunities for social learning and human interaction.
- ★ Learning takes place Monday-Friday by both synchronous instruction and asynchronous instruction simultaneously
- ★ Technology is utilized to support engagement with all students.
- ★ Students in-person are in the classroom and are able to interact with remote students
- ★ Students in remote are also in the classroom setting via a large screen monitor where they are seen and heard by teacher and in-person classmates

Option 1: A/B Hybrid Concurrent Model (In-Person & Distance Learning)	Option 2: Full-Time Distance Learning
	
Description	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students in-person are in the classroom and are able to interact with remote students. ★ Students in remote learning are also engaged in the live instruction (distance learning days) via a large screen monitor where they are seen and heard by the teacher and all classmates (those in-person and those in the remote setting). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Students participate in the Hybrid Concurrent Model from home or remote setting participating in live synchronous lessons provided by the teacher via Zoom or Google Meet. ★ Students in distance learning are able to interact with the teacher and all classmates (those receiving in-person instruction and those receiving remote instruction).
Schedule	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Group "A" attends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ in person Monday-Tuesday ○ remotely Thursday-Friday ★ Group "B" attends: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ remotely Monday-Tuesday ○ in person Thursday-Friday ★ All students attend remotely on Wednesdays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Full-time, Monday - Friday TK-6th distance learning where teachers and students are connected via technology into the A/B Hybrid In-person Learning community.

Model Schedule for Concurrent Education

Hybrid Concurrent Model *staggered start times TBD				
Monday Tuesday 8:00-12:50		Wednesday	Thursday Friday 8:00-12:50	
Cohort A In-person	Cohort B At home synchronous Instruction	Distance Learning Cohorts A & B	Cohort B In-person	Cohort A At home synchronous Instruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Building English Language Arts Math Designated ELD P.E. Recesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Building English Language Arts Math Designated ELD P.E. Recesses 	8:00 - 10:00 SEL & ELD (30 minutes of ELD required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Building English Language Arts Math Designated ELD P.E. Recesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Building English Language Arts Math Designated ELD P.E. Recesses
12:50 Dismissal & Lunch to Go		12:45-2:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Meeting PLC Gr. Level Collab 	12:50 Dismissal & Lunch to Go	
12:50 -1:35 Lunch		2:45-3:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees 	12:50 -1:35 Lunch	
1:35 - 2:35 Cohort B Synchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention Groups 			1:35 - 2:35 Cohort A Synchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention Groups 	
Cohort A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asynchronous Instruction to support (May have intervention groups from both cohorts, PE, or other levels of support identified by teachers and/or the school) 			Cohort B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asynchronous Instruction to support (May have intervention groups from both cohorts, PE, or other levels of support identified by teachers and/or the school) 	
Rational: Students who have attended class remotely will have the opportunity for additional support through intervention groups on the days they don't attend in person.			Rational: Students who have attended class remotely will have the opportunity for additional support through intervention groups on the days they don't attend in person.	

As you can see in the short videos the ability to teach to students in person and at home provides us the ability to teach to all students at the same time without having to double back and reteach another group. The end result is our teachers will be able to teach twice as much in a given week in an in-person direct instructional model. This means the teacher can cover twice the curriculum without having to go back and reteach the same lessons twice in the same week to a different group. In addition, the new technology provided to our instructional staff provides endless innovative possibilities.

The rotation of students in the A/B Hybrid Concurrent option may not be for some of our parents who would rather keep their students at home in a "distance model" the entire week. In the A/B Hybrid Concurrent model students who remain at home instead of participating in the A/B rotation in-person instruction are able to be included in this model. They will be at home while their teacher teaches synchronously to the entire class.

As you can imagine this one model checks off a great deal of our criteria boxes and yet we recognize it is not perfect. We are committed to learning and growing into this model. The benefits of this model"

- A model by which instruction, led by the teacher, is accessed by students in school AND at home at the same time.
- A model that maximizes synchronous learning opportunities.
- Eliminates the need for teachers to plan separate learning activities for in-person and online students.
- Allows all students to be a part of the classroom experience regardless of where they are physically
- Maximizes direct instructional time while we will be restricted to smaller groups/class sizes.

We recognize for some the use of technology may be a change in the way we approach education. And yet at this time, these new tools will increase the educational experience during this transition into the hybrid model and when back to full time full classroom models.

A parent survey will be sent to you on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. We will be asking you your preference for participating in the A/B hybrid concurrent model or full-time distance learning within this A/B Hybrid Concurrent model. We will also be asking you about transportation, childcare and a few other questions we will need from you to move forward. We will need every parent to complete the survey, as this information will greatly assist us in the logistics to bring back our students when deemed safe.

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.

I'm proud to be working with you all in serving the students in the Bellevue Union School District. We miss seeing you in-person and hopefully we will see you all sooner than later.

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:

Student of the Month Zoom Monday, March 1 (Teachers send link)

Read Across America Day Tuesday, March 2

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- Submit Google form by March 5th to be included in the raffle!

Mr. Science lessons K-6- March 5, Times vary by grade level

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

Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year is Open! Register online, call or stop by our office today!

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

March 1: First day of the 3rd trimester

March 4: Coffee with the Principal 9:30am- zoom link coming

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

We are hiring for the Parent Liaison position in Taylor Mountain's main office. Call if you are interested!

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

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

March 1: First day of the 3rd trimester

March 11: Mr. Science will be back! Don't lose your science bag...you already have all of your supplies!

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

DISTRICT SUPPORT:

Curriculum and English Learners, Aracely Romo-Flores

Thank you to those of you who attended the 2021 Parent Leadership Institute sponsored by the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) and Migrant Education. If you were not able to attend and/or want more information, please [CLICK HERE](#) and you will find information from the institute, including the presentations and video recordings.

District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC)

Per request, there will be a special DELAC meeting this Thursday, March 4th at 6:30 p.m. to provide information regarding the rules and regulations of a School Board meeting, how to make public comments, and how to join the breakout room for Spanish interpretation. We look forward to seeing you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89643231417?pwd=UXdNUGVObElxMDF5VHVlK3VFMnFqdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 4323 1417

Passcode: 918973

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

If you are needing support to access the internet please reach out to your school offices and talk with us about your needs.

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 HVAC Improvement project is moving forward with work beginning the first week in March.

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 & the planning required to perform YEAR 2 projects from our [BUSD Facility 5 Year Plan](#) at our other sites.

Business Services, Chris Kim, CBO

The Board Meeting Scheduled for March 9th (agenda to be posted to www.busd.org and www.facebook.com/busd.org as per usual) will include the following important topics from the Business Services Department:

- (1) The Results from the District’s Official Audit of its FY 2019/2020 Financials by Christy White and Associates.
- (2) The 2nd Interim financial report covering the period between July 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021. This report will include the most up to date Cash Flow Projections.
- (3) A resolution authorizing the District to draw on a Tax Revenue Anticipation Note (TRANS) to offset the impact of the principal apportionment cash deferrals from the State of California.

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,

Dr. David Alexander
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