



Foresthill Divide School
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Family Newsletter: April 3, 2020

Hello FDS Families,

It is with profound sadness to announce that FDS along with all of the school districts in Placer County will remain closed for the balance of the school year. According to Placer County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson, “Based on the modeling of the COVID-19 outbreak in California and Placer County, it will not be safe for students to return to school in a traditional in-person model through the end of May into early June.” With that guidance and recommendations shared earlier this week from both Governor Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, the Superintendents of Placer County school districts in concert with Placer County Office of Education made a unified decision to close school facilities for in-person instruction through the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. I would like to thank our families for the continued patience and collaboration as our teachers and staff embark on the monumental transition from our traditional classrooms to a Distance Learning model.

Please note the Placer County Office of Education Press Release from noon today included after the last page of this Family Newsletter.

FDS Principal News: I mentioned in last week’s Family Newsletter that our staffs’ attitude has been positive and our resolve strong in our collective efforts to provide the best possible education for your children. We remain so despite the challenges endured and those in the future yet to be conquered.

Below is information regarding current matters.

Upcoming Important Dates: **[School Closure in effect for all of the following dates and events]** April 6 – Education Foundation inaugural meeting (postponed), April 6 through April 13 – Spring Break, April 14 – Distance Learning begins (materials for pick up from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), April 17 – PTO Movie Night (canceled), April 20 @ 6:30p – Board meeting (teleconference), and April 23 – Foresthill Appreciation Day (postponed). **[May – June Events: TBD and TBA Due to School Closure]**

Distance Learning: Our Educators have been diligently planning, preparing, and working to officially begin the school’s Distance Learning program upon our return from Spring Break on Tuesday, April 14. On that same day, materials required for Distance Learning must be picked up by families at the FDS Roundabout from 9:00a – 1:00p. All students must complete their work for drop off back to FDS on Monday, May 4 and pick up of their next batch of Distance Learning materials at that same time. Each teacher will contact their respective families with more details regarding schoolwork collections, testing, and grading.

Student Pick Up of Personal Belongings: As the news of school closure for the rest of the school year is very new to the FDS staff, we will be discussing as a team how best to return personal belongings back to students. Each teacher will soon contact their respective families with more details.

COVID-19 Mitigation: Full Campus Lockdown: In order to protect the health and welfare of our students, families, staff, and community, FDS will fully close and lock all entrances onto school property during non-operating/non-essential days and times starting late this afternoon until further notice. Due to required limited access needs of teachers and staff for meal serving, instructional planning, administrative functions, and campus maintenance projects, we currently disinfect daily all rooms (classrooms, office, library, restrooms, etc.) used on those days. Regardless of use, all outdoor door handles are disinfected daily. Though the play structures are disinfected on a regular basis, it is not possible to disinfect them after each use by families and thereby we are unable to ensure the health and welfare of each subsequent family using the play structures. I am deep with grief but respectfully ask that all honor the intentions and actions of the campus lockdown in order to preserve the health and safety for our all members of the community, but most importantly, controlling the spread to our most vulnerable residents.

Breakfast and Lunch: In addition to serving our FDS students, we are now providing breakfast and lunch “grab and go” meals to all Foresthill youths 18 and younger for pick up from 10:00 a.m. to noon each weekday of school closure including Spring Break. As we are determined in our efforts to serve all those in need, please be sure to help spread the word to families who would like our support in providing daily meals to their children. Please be reminded that FDS will not be providing food on days with no power or unsafe driving conditions.

I want to assure you that all of us are committed to serving your children and you.

Please know that the caring and supportive FDS staff have been amazing in continuing to keep that commitment.

Thanks. Jack

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PLACER COUNTY SCHOOL FACILITIES CLOSED FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FOR REMAINDER OF ACADEMIC YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

AUBURN, CA – Based on guidance from Placer County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson, Placer County public schools and state preschool facilities will remain closed for in-person instruction through the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year.

“Based on modeling of the COVID-19 outbreak in California and in Placer County, it will not be safe for students to return to school in a traditional in-person model through the end of May into early June,” Sisson said.

Instruction will continue to students through online or other home-learning models. Seniors who are on track to graduate will graduate. This decision aligns with recommendations shared earlier this week from both Governor Newsom and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

“We understand the heartbreak our students and families are experiencing,” said Placer County Superintendent of Schools Gayle Garbolino-Mojica. “As school leaders who value education and the well-being of our students, we are heartbroken as well. Decisions such as these are not made lightly. We trust the data from public health officials and strongly believe this is in the best interest of our school communities and our entire region.”

“To be clear, the school year is not over,” continued Garbolino-Mojica. Each school district in Placer County has a plan in place for distance learning, which may include the use of technology such as Chromebooks or Zoom video conferences. Some schools are also utilizing hardcopy worksheet packets to keep students engaged and learning.

Parents, students and families will continue to receive updates and information regarding grades, transcripts, commencement ceremonies, summer school options and more from their school districts and charter schools regularly through email, by phone and through social media. School facilities will stay open to staff for essential tasks. Schools will continue to provide meals and childcare, when possible. The end of the school year will follow the district calendars for all students.

The Placer County Office of Education's Childcare Resource and Referral Program is available for families working in [essential services](#) and childcare providers seeking to provide care or fill spaces. Call (530) 745-1380 for assistance.

“While this isn’t the outcome any of us wanted, we are grateful for the partnership of the California Department of Education and Placer County Public Health who have provided guidance and recommendations to allow us to make informed decisions,” continued Garbolino-Mojica.

For general questions about COVID-19 and precautions currently recommended by Placer County Public Health, residents may call the county’s coronavirus information line at (530) 886-5310. Current information about the coronavirus is available at www.placer.ca.gov/coronavirus and on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website.

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