

April 1, 2020

Dear Waugh Community,

Earlier today Governor Newsom, in collaboration with State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, advised that all California public school campuses remain closed to students for the rest of the current school year. The Waugh School District, at the advice of the Sonoma County Office of Education and the Sonoma County Health Officer, will adhere to this recommendation in the interest of student and community safety. **Waugh will therefore extend distance learning and maintain our campus closures for the rest of the current school year.**

A related press release from the Sonoma County Office of Education can be found [HERE](#).

This news may not be surprising to many who have been monitoring the rapid spread of COVID-19. We are all becoming aware of our societal obligation to maintain social distancing and slow the spread to our greater community. Nonetheless, we recognize that the extended campus closures will place a further strain on our families who are already struggling with this new reality. I know that many within the Waugh community are concerned about the health and safety of loved ones. Many families are also experiencing the economic impact of this crisis. All of us are adjusting to our new role as parents supporting distance learning at home.

For many of our students, the reality that they will not be returning to their school campuses for the rest of the year will bring up emotions. Many students will likely be coming to terms with the severity of our current situation with this new announcement. You may see changes in mood, behavior, sleeping/eating patterns or an increase in need for structure. This [LINK](#) has valuable resources for families coping with the changes and challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We anticipate that students will have questions about the extension of campus closure during their upcoming online learning sessions. We have shared the aforementioned resources with our school staff and we are in the process of preparing teachers to appropriately address student questions and concerns. Teachers will address student questions with factual information at the developmentally appropriate level to their respective students. There are available resources within the district to support students if social emotional needs arise. Additionally, we remain committed to provide healthy lunches to students during this period of campus closures. Please contact the District Office to inquire about these services (765-3331).

Through all of the challenges we face, I couldn't be more heartened to work with such a dedicated team of teachers and support staff. They continue to remain focused on the needs of

your students. They are working tirelessly, often against the backdrop of their own personal struggles amidst the COVID-19 crisis, to adjust to this new model of educational service delivery.

We continue to wish your family health and comfort during this challenging time. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mike Gardner
Superintendent