

Merced River School District  
4402 W. Oakdale Rd., Winton, CA 95388  
209-358-5679/209-358-9664  
Richard Lopez, Superintendent

April 1, 2020

## School Closure Update for the Merced River Learning Community

Dear Merced River Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Our district has been working closely in monitoring the impact the COVID-19 health crisis has on our students and school community. The safety of students and staff continues to be a top priority during this unprecedented pandemic. As such, careful consideration has been given to how to best proceed for the remainder of the school year.

Based on the recommendation from Governor Newsom, State Superintendent Tony Thurmond, and in collaboration with the Merced County Office of Education and the Merced County Department of Public Health, **the Merced River School District is announcing that the temporary school site closure will extend for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.**

The school year is not over though. It will transition from in-person classroom instruction to distance learning. In Merced County, there is no definitive date for when school sites will reopen.

Should the following criteria be met, school sites may reopen:

- The California State Shelter in Place order has been lifted
- The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Merced County has remained constant for a two week period or declined
- The directive to Social Distance has been removed
- The limit placed on social gatherings has been removed

School Districts in Merced County will continue daily surveillance of these criteria for the benefit of students and families.

During this timeframe, the Merced River School District will continue to provide essential services to students, like meals during the regular school schedule. Though the buildings will be closed, education will continue through extended learning.

The Merced River School District Board of Education, Teachers and Staff are working hard to ensure that learning continues for students. Our teachers and staff will be working hard to provide instructional resources for distance learning opportunities for every student we serve.

More information will be shared about what this will look like for your student and family.

Board of Education: Abraham Aguilar, Lorrie McDowell, Stephanie Sexauer, George Soares, Holly Tucker

It is crucial during this health crisis that families follow the guidance of public health officials to practice social distancing and only go out when necessary. Children should not congregate during the stay-at-home order as it puts the child, their families and the community at risk.

Sincerely,

Richard Lopez and All Merced County Superintendents  
Superintendent, Merced River School District

Steve Tietjen, Ed.D., Merced County Superintendent of Schools  
Sandra Schiber, Ed.D., Atwater Elementary School District  
Bliss Propes, Ballico-Cressey Elementary School District  
Adolfo Melara, Delhi Unified School District  
Justin Miller, Ed.D., Dos Palos-Oro Loma Joint Unified School District  
Lori Gonzalez, El Nido Elementary School District  
Bryan Ballenger, Ed.D., Gustine Unified School District  
Isabel Cabral-Johnson, Hilmar Unified School District  
Scott M. Borba, Le Grand Union Elementary School District  
Donna Alley, Le Grand Union High School District  
Andres Zamora, Livingston Union School District  
Mark Marshall, Ed.D., Los Banos Unified School District  
Mike Crass, McSwain Union Elementary School District  
Al Rogers, Ed.D., Merced City School District  
Alan Peterson, Merced Union High School District  
Kristi Kingston, Plainsburg Union Elementary School District  
Jose Gonzalez, Planada Elementary School District  
Alison Kahl, Snelling-Merced Falls Union Elementary School District  
John Curry, Weaver Union School District  
Randall Heller, Winton Elementary School District

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**Actualización del cierre de la escuela para la comunidad de de Merced River**

Estimados estudiantes, padres y tutores de Merced River:

Nuestro distrito ha estado trabajando de cerca para monitorear el impacto que la crisis de salud COVID-19 tiene para nuestros estudiantes y la comunidad escolar. La seguridad de los estudiantes y el personal continúa siendo una de las principales prioridades durante esta pandemia sin precedentes. Como tal, se ha considerado cuidadosamente cómo proceder mejor durante el resto del año escolar.

Según la recomendación del gobernador Newsom, el superintendente estatal Tony Thurmond, y en colaboración con la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Merced y el Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado de Merced, **el Distrito Escolar de Merced River anuncia que el cierre temporal se extenderá por el resto del año escolar 2019-2020.**

Sin embargo, el año escolar no ha terminado. Pasará de la instrucción presencial de salón al aprendizaje a distancia en línea. En el condado de Merced, no hay una fecha definitiva para la reapertura de las escuelas.

Si se cumplen los siguientes criterios, los sitios escolares pueden volver a abrir:

- Se ha levantado la orden de Refugio en el lugar del estado de California
- El número de casos confirmados de COVID-19 en el condado de Merced se mantuvo constante durante un período de dos semanas o disminuyó
- Se eliminó la directiva de Distancia social.
- Se ha eliminado el límite establecido para las reuniones sociales.

Los distritos escolares en el condado de Merced continuarán la vigilancia diaria de estos criterios en beneficio de los estudiantes y las familias.

Durante este período de tiempo, el Distrito Escolar de Merced River continuará brindando servicios esenciales a los estudiantes, como comidas durante el horario escolar regular. Aunque los edificios estarán cerrados, la educación continuará a través del aprendizaje extendido.

La Mesa Directiva de Merced River, los Maestros y Personal del Distrito Escolar de Merced River están trabajando arduamente para asegurar que el aprendizaje continúe para los estudiantes. Nuestros maestros y personal trabajarán arduamente para proporcionar recursos educativos para oportunidades de aprendizaje a distancia para cada estudiante que atendemos.

Se compartirá más información sobre cómo se verá esto para su estudiante y su familia.

Board of Education: Abraham Aguilar, Lorrie McDowell, Stephanie Sexauer, George Soares, Holly Tucker

Es crucial durante esta crisis de salud que las familias sigan la guía de los funcionarios de salud pública para practicar el distanciamiento social y solo salgan cuando sea necesario. Los niños no deben congregarse durante la orden de quedarse en casa, ya que pone en riesgo al niño, a sus familias y a la comunidad.

Sinceramente,

Richard Lopez y todos los Superintendentes del Condado de Merced

Superintendente, Distrito Escolar de Merced River

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