

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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District Website: www.wjUSD.org

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear WJUSD Families,

In light of recent school closures resulting from the public health crisis created by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), WJUSD has developed instructional resources for your child that they may work on at home. Parents can use these materials to support learning during the school closure between Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, April 10, 2020. These learning resources are supplementary in nature and designed to help establish a structured learning routine in your home. Please know that the safety and well-being of all our community, especially our children, remains at the forefront of our thoughts and efforts. With that in mind, we will continue to support the academic, emotional, and social development of all our students.

Transition to Distance Learning

The WJUSD staff has been working diligently to develop learning resources to support students while schools are closed and will continue to do so. The transition to distance learning will be accomplished in a phased approach.

Phase I - March 16th - March 20th

Prepare and Provide Voluntary Enrichment and Learning Opportunities

WJUSD will provide students and their family's links to digital resources on our website. We know that the supplementary materials and resources for students and families to voluntarily access at home are not ideal or equivalent to classroom instruction, but can provide temporary support until spring break. Links to the online resources can be found on all school websites, the WJUSD website, WJUSD social media accounts as well as through the following websites:

TK-6th Resources: bit.ly/WJUSDTK6

7-8 Resources: bit.ly/WJUSD78

9-12 Resources: bit.ly/WJUSD912

Phase 2 - March 20th - April 10th

Prepare for Teacher-Led Distance Learning

This phase will focus on continuity of learning and will require planning and implementation by teachers and use of a virtual platform in order to facilitate remote learning. We will begin preparation and training for Phase 2 in the coming weeks. Distance Learning is defined as a system by which students and teachers who are located in different locations can continue instruction and learning using a variety of methods.

We know many students and families are anxiously awaiting the continuation of learning. We are being very thoughtful about this process, listening to guidance from the California Department of Education, and carefully considering equitable access to education so that every student in WJUSD benefits from these efforts. During this preparatory phase, the WJUSD staff will:

- Develop distance learning platform/design
- Develop Special Education Program and 504 Plan accommodations
- Develop plan for continued counseling services
- Distribute needed technology support
- Provide Staff Development
- Grade Level Collaboration
- Develop Curriculum

Please watch for information in the coming days on how to check out a WJUSD Chromebook. For qualifying families, a WiFi Hotspot can be made available if your family does not have access to a computer for your student or internet access at home.

Phase 3 - April 20th - ???

Teacher-Led Distance Learning

This phase will officially transition our instruction to Distance Learning. In the event that school closures continue past our regular Spring Break, school will continue through a Distance Learning model. Students and teachers will interact virtually, through an online platform, on a regular basis and students will resume receiving instruction from qualified and credentialed teachers.

Talking to Kids about the Coronavirus

News of the coronavirus COVID-19 is everywhere, from the front page of all the papers to every channel on television. Many parents are wondering how to bring up the epidemic in a way that will be reassuring and not make kids more worried than they already may be. Here is some advice from the experts at the Child Mind Institute.

- **Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus.** Most children will have already heard about the virus or seen people wearing face masks, so parents shouldn't avoid talking about it. Not talking about something can actually make kids worry *more*. Your goal is to help your children feel informed and get fact-based information that is likely more reassuring than whatever they're hearing from their friends or on the news.
- **Be developmentally appropriate.** Don't volunteer too much information, as this may be overwhelming. Instead, try to answer your child's questions. Do your best to answer honestly and clearly. It is okay if you can't answer everything; being available to your child is what matters.
- **Take cues from your child.** Invite your child to tell you anything they may have heard about the coronavirus, and how they feel. Give them ample opportunity to ask questions. Your goal is to avoid encouraging frightening fantasies.
- **Deal with your own anxiety.** If you notice that you are feeling anxious, take some time to calm down before trying to have a conversation or answer your child's questions.
- **Be reassuring.** Hearing about the coronavirus on the news may be enough to make children seriously worry that they'll catch it. It's helpful to reassure your child about how rare the coronavirus actually is (the flu is much more common) and that kids actually seem to have milder symptoms.
- **Focus on what you're doing to stay safe.** An important way to reassure kids is to emphasize the safety precautions that you are taking. Children feel empowered when they know what to do to keep themselves safe. Remind kids that they are taking care of themselves by washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (or the length of two "Happy Birthday" songs) when they come in from outside, before they eat, and after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom.
- **Stick to routine.** This is particularly important with your child's school or daycare shut down. Structured days with regular mealtimes, learning times, exercise, and bedtimes are an essential part of keeping kids happy and healthy.

- **Keep talking.** Tell kids that you will continue to keep them updated as you learn more. Let them know that the lines of communication are going to be open, even if you don't have all the answers.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS NOT DISCONNECTING

Stay connected with us. We will be providing updates as they happen through regular messages and on our COVID-19 webpage at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#). Additionally, families will receive regular communication and updates through our normal WJUSD channels.