

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

March 13, 2020

WJUSD Staff:

The public health crisis created by the coronavirus is not something any of us could reasonably have expected to happen, and yet we find ourselves in uncharted waters as we work to prevent the spread of the illness. We have been following the guidance of our county public health experts on how we can keep all who are part of our school community -- students, staff, family members and visitors -- safe in the midst of a growing health crisis.

After serious deliberations and in light of the recent announcement by the California Department of Education and the Governor, we are now at a point where the balance has shifted and the appropriate path, in the short-term, is to close schools.

We are taking this step to keep our school communities safe. Effective Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 17, we will close all Woodland Joint Unified public schools while we evaluate the appropriate path forward. Additionally, all events, extracurricular activities, athletic practices and competitions, and performances are canceled during the closure.

This is a difficult decision, but necessary, as we try to slow the spread of the virus. Woodland Joint Unified serves a high-needs population, and our schools provide a social safety net for our children. The closing of any school has real consequences beyond the loss of instructional time. This is not an easy decision and not one we take lightly.

We are not certain what lies ahead as this is a very fluid situation, but I can assure you my unwavering commitment to do all we can do to help all impacted by this decision.

Below are some important facts about what we will be doing during this closure.

Cleaning of Campuses and Classrooms

While school is out, we will use this time to make sure classrooms and common areas are disinfected, and that a thorough cleaning of all commonly used surfaces occurs.

Specifics of Closure

All Programs

This closure means that athletics, professional development, school events, and extracurricular activities scheduled between, Monday, March 16 through April 17, 2020, are canceled. In alignment with our school closures, all before and after school programs at school sites will be closed for the same duration. Essential administrative and support staff will be available to answer questions during the closure. The District Office will be open until Spring Break for enrollment and other support services.

Student Meals

WJUSD will continue to provide meals to students during school closures. Lunches will be available for pick up starting Monday, March 16 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children must be present in order for meals to be provided. If arriving by car, meals will be provided based on the number of children in the car. If walking to these sites, meals will be provided to all children present. Meal packages will include lunch for the

current day and breakfast for the next morning. Updates will be posted on the [Student Nutrition Services website](#). The following are the lunch pick up locations:

- Gibson Elementary
- Prairie Elementary
- Sci-Tech Elementary
- Tafoya Elementary
- Douglass Middle School
- Lee Middle School
- Pioneer High School
- Woodland High School

Some Work Will Continue

Some District departments, such as the district office, food services, and maintenance and operations will continue to operate during the school closures in order to make sure the District grounds are maintained, employees are paid and buildings remain in good repair.

I want to thank again our WJUSD teachers and staff for their tremendous work and continued professionalism as we work through a challenging time. I also thank our greater community for their patience and sensitivity to the evolving nature of this outbreak and the greater goal of doing our part to protect our most vulnerable communities.

It is likely that we are not at the end of this, but rather just embarking on this challenging road. We will get through this, but it will take all working together for the greater good of our community.

In the meantime, WJUSD will continue to stay in close conversation with the city, state, and local officials, and partners as our entire region responds to new guidance and a call to take an active role combating COVID-19. Please expect regular updates during the closure. In the meantime, please continue to check the WJUSD Coronavirus webpage for new information. Any important updates will be shared as quickly as possible with our school community by email and available on the WJUSD website as well as on District social media.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,



Tom Pritchard
Superintendent