

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

April 2, 2020

WJUSD Community,

WJUSD Schools to Close for the Remainder of the 2019-2020 School Year

Thank you for your continued patience during this very fluid situation. As with all of our efforts, student and staff safety is one of our highest priorities. With that in mind and due to COVID-19 monitoring within the County of Yolo, discussion with YCOE and other Yolo County districts, and after considering guidance from both the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor of California, I am making the unprecedented decision to close all WJUSD schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Although today is a distressing day for all WJUSD students, staff, and families, I believe that the time has come to make this important decision. I regret the hardships this will cause for many of our families and employees. However, at this time, I believe that it is the right step to take for the health and safety of our students, families, and the community at large - especially to protect our most vulnerable students or employees who are immunosuppressed or at greater risk due to age and other reasons.

Our staff is currently preparing to transition from the classroom to distance learning beginning on April 20th. This effort will cultivate a positive and productive learning environment for all of our students with a focus on:

- **TEACHING:** Implementing and refining familiar online tools for continuous ongoing learning.
- **LEARNING:** Checking in with students to provide progress, and support meaningful engagement via assignment feedback and other practices already used by teachers today.
- **CONNECTING:** Communicating clearly and regularly with students.

We understand that there are concerns or issues that have yet to be addressed (i.e. A/P concerns, college entrance concerns, grading, graduations, and end-of-the-year activities, etc.) so we will provide an update once guidance is offered from state and federal officials and we have time to process that information.

It is also important to note that we will continue to provide grab-n-go meals, at ten locations throughout our community, during the length of our school closures.

As our implementation of distance learning evolves, we are committed to providing you with timely and accurate updates. We will continue monitoring the situation weekly with the clarity that this will continue to the end of the school year.

I am grateful to be a part of the Woodland community and I can confidently say that I believe WJUSD is up to the challenge before us. Please know that the students and staff have the unwavering support of our Board of Trustees and myself as we look to the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Pritchard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Pritchard
WJUSD Superintendent