

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

April 2, 2020

WJUSD Staff,

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. So, 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 transition is designed to cultivate positive, productive learning environments 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 many 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.) but we will provide an update once guidance is provided 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 from our Educational Services Department. 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 leadership team at WJUSD and I can confidently say that I believe we are up to the challenge before us. Please know that you have my unwavering support and that of the Board of Trustees as we look to the future.

Thanks,
Tom