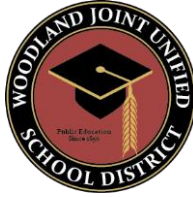


# WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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District Website: [www.wjUSD.org](http://www.wjUSD.org)

## **Superintendent's Office**

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

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October 9, 2020

Dear WJUSD Community,

During last night's Board of Trustee meeting, an important presentation and discussion took place about our return to campus planning. If you were unable to watch the meeting last night, it can be viewed at the following link: <https://livestream.com/wjUSD>

## **Yolo County is Currently in the Red Tier for COVID-19**

This week, based on the current Yolo County COVID-19 rates, the County remains in the Red Tier. WJUSD continues to watch the rate to see if our County remains in the Red Tier for 14 consecutive days, which would allow for schools to return to in-person learning *on a limited basis*.

This is a crucial time for our district and community as we move cautiously and deliberately to make plans and decisions around health and safety protocols, health checks, staffing plans, collective bargaining agreements, and contact tracing.

As you may recall, earlier this year, WJUSD proposed a gradual, phased approach to reopening our schools so that students could return to campus. We have also been partners with the Yolo County Office of Education and the Yolo County Public Health Department. Additionally, we will soon be seeking input from our families to help us better understand how our distance learning is progressing.

## **WJUSD Board of Trustees Approves Move to Phase 2: Targeted Small Groups of Students Identified with the Highest Needs**

As COVID-19 numbers continue to decrease in Yolo County, WJUSD prepares to enter into Phase 2 of our reopening plan. Our first step is to implement health and safety plans to safely bring limited, small groups of students, with the highest needs, as well as staff back to school.

Our targeted services include bringing back special education SDC classrooms along with in-person IEP assessments, English Language Learner newcomers, full-day preschool classrooms, social emotional supports in small cohorts, the highest needs migrant students, and students experiencing technology barriers due to their location.

## **Could We Move Back to Distance Learning?**

If Yolo County COVID-19 rates change direction and begin to increase, WJUSD could return to Distance Learning for all. This would happen if the County COVID-19 case numbers cross the threshold back into the State's Purple Tier for two consecutive weeklong periods. We will always need to be ready to pivot back to Distance Learning for groups of students, as necessary.

## **Planning for Future Phases**

Now that we have decided to move forward with Phase 2, our Board has asked staff to begin the process of developing plans for Phase 3 - a hybrid model that includes an on campus instructional component. The timeline for reaching Phase 3 is still unknown and depends on County COVID-19 numbers, collective bargaining agreements with our labor partners, and the successful implementation of Phase 2. As we have mentioned on previous occasions, our ultimate goal is to return to a normal school environment, however, right now we are working to implement Phase 2 and are looking forward to Phase 3 in the future as long as our local COVID-19 number continue to decrease.

We still have a long road ahead with the potential for many challenges and pitfalls. We are preparing for the rest of the school year by planning ways to offer a hybrid model that includes an on-campus instructional component while also providing for the health and safety of students and staff. Any transitions will require all of us (students, staff and families) to adapt and there will be no perfect solutions. As always, thank you for your patience and support. And please continue with physical distancing and face coverings, as we do our part to reduce community spread, which ultimately will help to get our students back into classrooms sooner.

Thank you,



Tom Pritchard  
WJUSD Superintendent