

# Superintendent's *Weekly Summer Brief*

*"Preparing and empowering all students for a future of endless possibilities."*

May 29, 2020

## Classified Employee Appreciation:

### Thank you for your service!!



WJUSD celebrates our classified staff (office staff, groundskeepers, custodians, para educators, student nutrition staff and many more) and the great work they do for the students, fellow staff members and our District. The skills and willingness they bring to WJUSD is boundless. Thank you!

## Celebration of Service:

Tune in to our Special Board meeting scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 4:00 PM to enjoy and celebrate our 2020 retirees and to recognize many of our employees for reaching milestones in their service to the students of WJUSD!! More details to come.



## New Grading Policy:

Recently, our Board of Trustees weighed in on how to grade students during this coronavirus crisis and school closures. As stated at the board meeting when the decision was made, the decision was very specific and only applied to the current situation (third trimester or spring semester). Moving forward, the Board will consider creating Board

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Policy 5121: Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement. A draft of the policy will be presented at the June 11, 2020 board meeting and after discussions and revisions, a final policy is anticipated to be adopted before the beginning of the 20-21 school year.

## Graduate Profile:

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we are beginning to utilize our new Graduate Profile along with our LCAP to guide our instructional decisions. Please begin to review and understand our Graduate profile which outlines skills and competencies that we would like all of our graduates to attain before leaving WJUSD. For more detail, please see the following link:

**GRADUATE PROFILE**  
*WJUSD will graduate students who are...*

- CRITICAL THINKERS & PROBLEM SOLVERS**  
Students reason to understand complex issues with the ability to form questions and construct solutions.
- ACADEMICALLY LITERATE**  
Students possess a base of knowledge requisite for college and career readiness through a rigorous offering of ethnically sensitive, standards-based classes and courses.
- CREATIVE**  
Students explore multiple possibilities and use originality of thought to produce or express themselves through different modalities and discussion.
- COMMUNICATORS**  
Students seek to understand and be understood through clear, concise writing, and collaborative, respectful, open minded articulation and discussion.
- CIVIC-MINDED & CULTURALLY AWARE**  
Students develop and demonstrate an awareness of their responsibility to contribute to a diverse society. They recognize and respect the differences of people from other ethnic and cultural backgrounds by celebrating diversity and individuality, including students of varying social, emotional, and physical abilities.
- RESPONSIBLE & PRODUCTIVE**  
Students demonstrate a strong work ethic; complete tasks on time; utilize resources to get assistance when needed; prioritize attendance; and contribute effectively to society.

Woodland Joint Unified School District  
Woodland, CA

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## **Major Facility Projects Status:**

WHS stadium: 90% completed. The district and construction team are reviewing final work and beginning the punch-list.

Spring Lake Elementary School: The multi-purpose building plans are still hung-up at the Division of State Architect (DSA) awaiting final approval. Planning is also underway to provide a temporary cafeteria for the 20-21 school year while the multi-purpose building is being constructed.

PHS stadium restroom facilities: The new restroom facility for the PHS football field has been completed and we are awaiting DSA plan approval for the site work that needs to accompany the building.

## **End of Year Activities:**

Today was the last day of instruction for the 19-20 school year.

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 5<sup>th</sup> appointments will be scheduled for students to visit classrooms under appropriate physical distancing standards, to collect items left in the classroom or at school.

## **Senior Celebration Planning:**

Videotaping for the virtual graduation is underway.

School sites are finalizing diploma pick-up events:

WHS 1-4PM June 5<sup>th</sup>

PHS 9-11AM June 5<sup>th</sup>

CCHS 10:30AM – 12:00PM June 5<sup>th</sup>

The Virtual Graduation Ceremonies are scheduled to be available on graduation day – check school websites for more detailed information as it becomes available.

## **Summer School:**

Dates: June 15th - July 13th

Elementary STEAM Academy: Elementary education will offer a 4 week program that provides tiered support for our incoming 1st through 6th grade students. The goal of the program is connecting, empowering, and exciting students to the next school year through enriching educational experiences. Students will be provided materials through a one-time distribution prior to beginning of the program. We will also provide a Migrant education offering.

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## Migrant Education:

Migrant education will offer a 4 week program that extends the learning offered by the elementary STEAM academy. All migrant students are invited to attend our STEAM summer school program, and students will participate in the elementary STEAM program.

## Extended School Year:

This 20 day program is designed to provide services and support for students with Individual Education Programs (IEP), which include an Offer of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for Extended School Year (ESY). Students will participate in distance learning which will include online components as well as additional materials provided for students at home.

## AVID Excel Summer Bridge:

This two-week program is being offered to all students that will participate in the AVID Excel program next year. The areas of focus are: relationship and community building, transition and organizational support, and building literacy skills.

## Middle School STEAM Academy:

This academy will target incoming 7th and 8th grade students. Students will be investigating interest-based questions and will be supported in their learning and understanding through online morning seminars. In order to identify which topics of study will be supported, we will be sending out a survey to students.

## Freshman Leadership Academy:

We are providing students an opportunity to participate in a "Freshman Leadership Academy." This course will be for incoming ninth grade students. Our target is to have 50 students participate in the course. It will be online, with a focus of helping students transition to high school, prepare for ninth grade, and develop a robust 5-year plan.

## High School (Credit Recovery):

Students will be enrolled into a credit recovery course, supported by a credentialed teacher. The majority of the online instruction will be through Cyber High, and facilitated by our teachers.

## **Planning For The Fall:**

It seems like every day the news contains another important announcement about how communities and businesses are responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and what people need to do to remain healthy and safe. For schools, the one thing that is quite clear is that we will need to operate in a state of flexibility and adaptability throughout this summer and potentially well into the fall.

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We do know that Yolo County Officials recently revised the Yolo County Shelter-in-Place Order. This will inform our thinking as we look to make a decision for schools to reopen in the fall.

However, as there are many uncertainties that remain to be resolved, the following are some of our key considerations as we plan for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year:

- ✓ Safe and sanitized facilities
- ✓ Attendance and enrollment
- ✓ Staffing
- ✓ Teaching and learning
- ✓ Equity and Access
- ✓ Special Education
- ✓ Social-emotional supports
- ✓ Communication with community & timelines
- ✓ Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the WJUSD budget

As of now, we are planning to have the first day of instruction begin on August 12<sup>th</sup>. BUT, we still don't know what school will look like.

Elodia will be convening a workgroup to begin discussions around what will be required for re-opening in the fall. This group will also receive guidance from the federal government, the state government, our county health department and our local YCOE task force. We are also preparing an online survey to allow staff, students, and parents an opportunity for input.

Stay tuned!

## **What About Athletics?:**

Recently, WJUSD Athletic Directors met with Golden Empire League representatives to discuss what they, as a league, would like to do to prepare for fall athletics. The Golden Empire League (GEL) is waiting for specific guidance from CIF to identify how high school sports will proceed in the future. CIF is taking a tempered and methodical approach to giving guidance to leagues around California as they wait for guidance from the state. At this time, CIF is committed to supporting high school athletics and has not cancelled any seasons or games. CIF, and by extension the GEL, is waiting to hear from CDE and the county on what next year will look like. In a recent communication with Yolo County officials, the question was asked about when the County would begin to permit youth and adult sports. The response from the official was that the State does not clearly indicate when specific youth and adult sports will be permitted. They estimate that this activity would be allowed in Stage 3. Yolo county is in Stage 2 of reopening and will continue to monitor the progress of the county and will notify us when sports activities will be allowed.

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In the meantime, the Athletic Directors are waiting for direction from CIF and GEL. If things continue to progress and we are able to begin organized sport activities, then we will follow our normal scheduled events on July 27th (football) and August 2nd (all other fall sports). July 3rd through July 25th is the normal CIF dead period. Our campuses have been closed through summer school, so we will not be participating in June activities. Other than that, WJUSD does not have any official activities. Often, community organizations support other summer leagues. These organizations will work with the City of Woodland and Yolo County to identify what activities may be allowed. As we get more information from the state, CIF and County health, we will make modifications in order to support high school athletics as soon as possible.

## **Budget Outlook:**

If you have been watching the news, Governor Newsome recently provided his “May Revise” of the 2020-2021 budget and the news was not positive. In fact, he announced a \$54 billion dollar shortfall in revenue for the upcoming school year. What does that mean for WJUSD? Well, it translates into about \$6.8 million in revenue loss. In response, meetings are being held to identify areas where we may be able to further reduce our expenditures and we are preparing a poll for both staff and the general public to provide input. The input will help to develop “themes” which will be used to provide recommendations to the Board. So far, we have met with the administrative team, a group from WEA and a group from CSEA.