



GRATTON School District

4500 S. Gratton Road
Denair, CA 95316
209.632.0505
209.632.7810 fax
www.grattonschool.net

COVID-19 Update April 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and weathering this crisis as well as possible under these circumstances.

Originally it was shared with you that the earliest students would return to school would be May 4. **We now have further guidance and directives from State Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurmond and Governor Gavin Newsom to keep schools closed through the end of the current school year.**

With this new information and an abundance of caution, the Stanislaus County Office of Education and school district superintendents are taking a safety-first approach and immediate action to extend the school facility closures through the end of the school year. We want you to understand that the 2019-20 school year is not over; it is just transitioning from classroom instruction to distance learning. Distance learning is taking place in different ways throughout our county. Gratton staff and teachers are currently working on a plan to provide a more robust distance learning environment for our students. These changes to our current learning model will take effect upon our return from our scheduled spring break on April 20, 2020. In the coming days and weeks, teachers will provide families with information regarding distance learning instruction and how it applies to their classroom.

It is important to note that distance learning can look different for each school and each district. We ask for patience and understanding as we are all quickly transitioning into a new way of teaching and learning to meet the health and safety impacts of COVID-19. It is challenging for many educators and our families to learn and communicate in a very new world, but working together, we can and will meet this challenge.

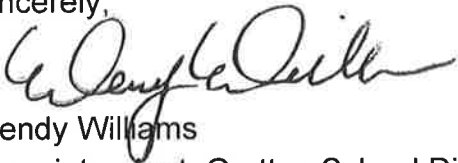
I am proud to see staff working collaboratively and diligently to engage with students and parents via phone, email, Class Dojo, and Zoom. If you have not connected with your child's teacher on Class Dojo, please do so as soon as possible. It is important for students and parents to stay connected and feel supported as we continue with valuable learning.

Please keep in mind that all of us as parents, teachers, staff, administration, and community members are facing these challenging times together. We have elderly relatives to worry about; we are caring for our children at home, while many of us, including our teachers, are working from home. We understand that some families are facing challenging employment situations and business slowdowns that are affecting people financially and emotionally. If you are in need please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or office staff and we will try to help connect you with appropriate resources. We are all in this together.

We recognize that the extension of school facility closures and implementation of social distancing practices has created challenges and hardship to many families in Stanislaus County, we also know this is the most effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic. We appreciate everyone's hard work, effort, and positive attitude, as we adjust to this situation with the best interests of all students in mind.

Please be safe out in the community and take care of one another.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Williams", written in a cursive style.

Wendy Williams

Superintendent, Graton School District