



**GRATTON**  
School District

## COVID-19 Update Letter 7-14-20

Dear Gratton Families,

It is with great disappointment that I must announce that our original intention of returning to school on August 6<sup>th</sup> with in-person learning will be postponed. Based on the requirements put forth yesterday by State and County Public Health Officials, Gratton School will resume school online with a distance learning format starting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. This requirement is based on the significant increase in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations both in Stanislaus County and statewide. Our health official for Stanislaus County Public Health, Dr. Julie Vaishampayan, has deemed it unsafe for schools in our county to return to school with in-person learning and has therefore directed us to move to a distance learning format. An official statement from Stanislaus County Public Health, in collaboration with Stanislaus County Office of Education is attached to this email and will be posted along with this letter on the District's website.

We understand the challenges our students and families may be facing in light of this news however, it is imperative that we follow the directions given by the health experts, in order to ensure the safety of our students, staff and community. Our staff are here to help guide our students and families through the uncertainty we are facing over the next several months as we do our part to reduce the spread of the disease. At this point there has not been a date designated from Stanislaus County Public Health for the return to in-person learning however, we will continue to work closely with our local health department to re-open in a safe manner as soon as possible. We are motivated to get our students back on campus when it is safe to do so.

It is our goal to continue to offer the rigorous and engaging distance learning program we provided in the spring, while offering additional levels of support for students and families. Distance learning for the fall will require daily participation and accountability for students. Much like in the spring, distance learning will involve daily live lessons, in addition to independent work and assessments. Distance learning may look different at the various grade levels and will be designed to be developmentally appropriate. Virtual

tutoring for students will be provided as needed. Technology support for families will also be available. If you have needs related to accessibility, please reach out to the school so we can assist you.

As we reflect on and evaluate our previous distance learning model, we welcome any feedback you can provide us on how to make our program even better. Please feel free to email the school with your compliments and/or suggestions and they will be taken into consideration as we develop an even stronger plan for our return.

Your child's teacher will be in contact with each of you as school gets closer and more information and announcements will be provided as they become available.

I appreciate your continued support and understanding during these unprecedented times. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. We are in this together.

Take care and be well,

Wendy Williams

Superintendent