



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent, Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

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PREPARE, SUPPORT, INSPIRE!

June 1, 2020

Dear Amador County Public Schools Staff & Families,

Together, we made it through ten amazing and challenging weeks of distance learning. Our students persevered and prevailed. Our teachers, many with school-age children of their own, continued to teach with passion and grit. Loving moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians taught and supported their children in so many creative and caring ways. Our support staff continued to work hard. Our leaders continued to lead the way with grace and understanding. Truly, it takes a village and we as a community have proven that once again! Summer vacation is just days away. Please know that ACUSD will continue to work hard throughout the summer months to prepare for the next school year. Today, I want to share some important updates with you.

Celebrating Our 2020 Graduates

This week, our community of parents/guardians and local partners will join together to honor and celebrate our ACUSD graduates through a drive-through diploma pick-up celebration at Independence, North Star, Argonaut and Amador High Schools (Independence and North Star: Tuesday 11am-1pm; Amador: Friday 9-11am; and Argonaut: Friday 10am-noon). I'm eager to join the celebration and see our community come out to safely and joyfully recognize our graduates and their accomplishments. You can continue to share in this season of celebration by enjoying the virtual graduation videos to be released as listed below. Detailed information about how to access the videos will be provided in another message.

- North Star and Independence High Schools - June 2 at 7:00 PM
- Jackson Junior High School - June 3 at 6:00 PM
- Ione Junior High School - June 4 at 6:00 PM
- Amador High School - June 5 at 5:30 PM
- Argonaut High School - June 5 at 7:30 PM

Budget News

In my last message to you on May 15th, I shared that Governor Newsom's May Revision of the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget calls for an unprecedented 10% reduction in state revenues for all public schools in California. For ACUSD, this means a reduction of over \$4.5 million. The proposed school funding reductions make the already difficult task of opening schools this fall in the midst of a pandemic that much more challenging. You can follow our budget updates at Board of Trustees meetings on June 10, June 24, and July 15. On May 27, 2020, a Budget Workshop was provided for the Board. You can access all of this information at <https://amadorcoe.org/minutes-agendas/>.

Family & Staff Survey: Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

We know there are many questions and concerns about how we will return to school in August. Some want to come back to our school buildings full-time, others may be fearful about sending their children back to school, and other folks are somewhere in between. Many are asking, what will it look like? What will be best for our little ones in kindergarten, our teenagers in high school, and all of our youth in between? We've learned a lot in the last two and a half months and this is helping us. Just think about the new skills that have been built using a variety of technology tools and platforms. Using this learned information to help us address the reopening of school in August, we are studying various scenarios and related budget plans. Very important in this decision making process is getting input from you.

To help us with this, please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the link here:

<https://forms.gle/HwwBwEYmUHV17dya8>. The survey deadline is the end of the day on Monday, June 8. Your feedback will inform our preparations and scenario planning for the fall.

Planning for the Reopening of Schools - First Day of School is August 12, 2020

We are taking these decisions very seriously. We know we must submit a balanced budget to the state by July 1 and at the same time comply with state and local health and safety guidelines and directives, which can increase expenses. Working with our Board of Trustees, labor leaders, and other stakeholders, we will use information from the California Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, Amador County Public Health, and other agencies to assist us. Our reopening preparations are guided by the following key principles:

- Student and staff health and safety
- Our strong focus on educational equity and student achievement
- Maintaining fiscal solvency
- Flexibility to accommodate the needs of students, families, and staff
- Flexibility to accommodate changing conditions
- Communicating with staff, students, families, labor partners and other stakeholders
- Compliance with federal, state and local health orders and guidance from health experts and scientists

Stay Connected through Summer

Please watch for updates through the month of June. You can also stay current with school news through the Amador County Public Schools website at www.amadorcoe.org and our social media posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

I hope this message finds you and your family in good health. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Amy Slavensky