



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent, Amy L. Slavensky, Ph.D.

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PREPARE, SUPPORT, INSPIRE!

November 5, 2020

Dear ACUSD Families and Staff,

I truly hope this message finds you safe and healthy. I'm calling with another update about the many steps we have taken to safely welcome our students, teachers and staff back to our school campuses on Monday, November 16th. Please see our [timeline](#) with details about the actions completed, work in progress, and more communication coming to you very soon. Our updated [Health & Safety Plan with a Q&A from Dr. Kerr](#) shows many other details of our plan for a safe reopening.

I understand there are some who are still very concerned about health and safety matters, and rightly so. With COVID cases going back up in our county, this is something we are monitoring as we continue to stay in close communication with Dr. Kerr. One concern I've heard expressed is about disinfecting and cleaning. It's important to understand that the guideline is for disinfecting - not cleaning or deep cleaning - between cohort groups of students or staff. Using JPA approved disinfecting sprayers, our awesome staff members have become experts and are already doing this work.

Another concern I've heard is about the amount of screen time students may have in the hybrid model. When students are in-person at school, use of chrome books and computers will be very limited. When high school students are learning at home via simulcasting, teachers may provide instruction part of the time and students will complete assignments or virtually work in small groups with other students part of the time, just as they do when they are physically in the classroom. When junior high and elementary school students are learning at home, they may have access to some virtual learning, but most of the time will be spent on practicing new skills, reading new materials, and completing assignments from the new learning. This includes virtual support on Wednesdays through teachers' office hours.

For sure, we have taken many steps to prepare our campuses such as expanding bandwidth for greater technology use, rearranging classrooms for social distancing, placing signage and distancing markers in appropriate areas, ensuring windows can be opened, installing new and upgraded HVAC filters, purchasing and using new disinfecting equipment and solutions, and so much more.

As we continue to prepare for reopening on November 16th in a hybrid model, we are compassionate about the questions and concerns and will continue to do our very best to provide information and support. Please be assured, we will continue to focus on physical safety, student learning, and social-emotional wellness. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Slavensky
Superintendent of Schools