



GUEST COMMENTARY

Supporting Our Students During the COVID19 Pandemic

January 15, 2021

There is no doubt about it. The pandemic has made life difficult for many. It has turned our lives upside down and caused too many students to be challenged with staying engaged in learning. It has forced everyone in education to completely reimagine how we do school – and we have. Our teachers, leaders and staff are to be highly commended for taking on this challenge and doing their very best to support students and families. So, what does this look like in our schools?

Students are enrolled in either distance learning (by the family’s choice) or in the hybrid model of learning. In distance learning, students are required to participate Monday through Friday in daily, live interaction with his/her teacher(s) and peers and complete work assignments. In the hybrid model of learning, students attend school on campus two full days a week (M/Th or Tu/F) and complete assignments at home three days a week. All students have virtual access to their teachers’ office hours on Wednesdays for additional support. High school students in the hybrid model also “zoom in” to their teachers’ classrooms and attend virtually when they are at home.

Our teachers and counselors are working hard to reach out to students who are struggling or not engaging. Counselors at every school are meeting with students individually or in small groups to provide extra social-emotional support. They also provide whole class lessons using supplemental curricula focused on wellness, mindfulness, perseverance, etc. Our schools offer kindness clubs, enrichment activities, virtual family events, and other clubs to provide students more opportunities for social interaction.

Academic, social-emotional, and behavioral intervention is offered through our Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which looks a little bit different at each school. General education, special education, and intervention teachers provide small group and one-on-one instruction in both distance learning and the hybrid model for students who need extra support. Special education aides and designated instructional services (DIS) providers (such as speech/language and adaptive PE) provide services based on students’ individualized education plans. Bilingual aides assist students who are learning English. For more information about MTSS in ACUSD, please go to <https://amadorcoe.org/mtss/>.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and students. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (209) 257-5353 or aslavensky@acusd.org, or Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Sean Snider at (209) 257-5334 or ssnider@acusd.org, or Director of Special Education/SELPA Kathryn Brown at (209) 257-5308 or kathryn.brown@acusd.org.

Sincerely,
Dr. Amy L. Slavensky
ACUSD Superintendent of Schools