

Friday Update, February 5, 2021

Good evening Sulphur Springs Families. This is Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi, your Superintendent with a Friday Update, February 5, 2021.

Our annual Many Families One Community Family Resource Fair will be held virtually this year on February 16th, 17th, and 18th between the hours of 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There is no cost to families or staff to attend the Virtual Fair which will feature presentations centered on academics and wellness. We are very excited to be able to bring these resources to our families since we have over 30 staff members from our District as well as William S. Hart and community partners from our Santa Clarita Valley presenting on a variety of topics. To check out the exciting sessions being presented, please go to our District website and look under 'What's New' and click on the Many Families, One Community, Virtual Resource Fair, and save the zoom links in your calendar of the sessions that you will want to attend.

As a reminder, the District's COVID-19 Safety Plan and COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist were approved and are posted on our District website for viewing. If families have any questions regarding our safety protocols and/or Instructional Programs for our District, I encourage you to read the Plan since all of the information is located in the COVID-19 Safety Plan.

During last Friday's Update, I had shared with you that Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health, had informed Superintendents that all Districts that were previously approved to reopen through the waiver process for grades TK through 2nd are able to reopen. This included Sulphur Springs Union School District.

Unfortunately, Superintendents were informed yesterday by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health that they were mistaken to inform districts that they can reopen if their waiver had already been approved. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health stated that the California Department of Public Health is not permitting districts to reopen until districts complete a 'Safety Review' form. This is being required for all districts to complete even if districts had already been approved to reopen through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health waiver's process.

The CA Department of Public Health has not yet released the required 'Safety Review' form to districts. Superintendents have been told that once the form is finalized and released, then districts may complete and submit their request to reopen, after which districts will need to wait for an approval by the CA Department of Public Health to reopen. Unfortunately, the district is not allowed to make the decision to reopen until this approval is received.

If we have not received the form and/or approval by the February 10th board meeting, we will be postponing the reopening of our schools. I hope to be able to provide more information about the new process that districts are required to complete by the CA Department of Public Health to reopen grades TK through 2nd, as soon as I receive it.

Assuming, the district receives approval to reopen, principals will be finalizing the placement of students and requests for program changes. Parents will be notified of approved changes by February 22nd via the parent portal and mailed to your home address. At a later date we will provide an update on when those changes will take place.

As a reminder, transportation will not be provided for the general education student population as was done in the past, except for a specific population. Students that are in this specific population will receive a phone call starting Monday to ask if you would like transportation for your child when school reopens.

Families, I thank you for taking the time to listen and read these Friday updates. We know that it is challenging to hear the various regulations that districts are being asked to comply with, however, it is required that all State regulations during this pandemic are followed. Always know that we are here to support you and your family, and I will continue to provide additional updates as needed so that you have the newest information at all times.

Wishing you and your family a relaxing weekend. Thank you.