



RENO REPORT

8/18/20

Dear AVS Parents,

A big heartfelt “Welcome” to all of our returning families, new kindergarten families, and all the new families joining us at AVS this year. This year our students, parents, and staff are all making history as we are the first group ever to start a school year in distance learning. I am certain, the 20/21 school year will be one for the history books!

As we have completed our first few days of distance learning, I am happy to report that other than a few glitches, our students have signed on to their live sessions and have started to make connections with their new teacher and their classmates. Together our teachers and students have been reviewing “zoom etiquette”, digital communication tools via Google Classroom, and have quickly jumped right into our curriculum. Starting this week our students will be adding additional learning opportunities through our enrichment class sections which includes Art, Science, Spanish, PE, and Music. Your support and help at home by ensuring that your child is logged on and ready to go has been evident, thank you for your support. 2020 continues to be a year filled with unprecedented and historic challenges, but together...we will continue to meet those challenges head on and do the best job we can educating the children of Alexander Valley School.

COVID-19 Trends and the impacts on the AVS Distance Learning Timeline

Last Friday I received information from our County Supt. Dr. Herrington regarding the current COVID-19 county trends and the impact the data is having on our county school districts. The COVID-19 data continues to be updated daily and is found at the following link.

<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/coronavirus-cases/>.

It is important for us to continue to track this data as it has a direct impact on when our county may be removed from the state watch list and when our students could potentially return to in-person learning. According to the Sonoma County Office of Public Health, our county is experiencing an upward trend in COVID-19 cases and other COVID-19 related statistics. As of

8/14/20, here are some of the notable statistics: The positive case rating per 100,000 residents was 245.2, the test positivity rate was up to 7.4%, and 16% of ICU beds were currently available throughout the county. These numbers continue to adjust up and down daily, but the last couple of weeks shows a consistent upward trend. According to the state, Sonoma County would need to be under the 100-positive case rating, plus have an additional 14 days under that rating mark to be removed from the state watch list.

Sonoma County is still working to increase its COVID-19 testing and contact tracing capacity. With the current capacity, county officials have indicated it would be insufficient to address the anticipated increase in caseload once students return to campus. Without adequate testing and contact tracing capacity, the county has informed us that it would be inadvisable for school districts, charters, or private schools to reopen to in person learning, as their ability to remain open safely would be hampered by the need to respond quickly to isolate and quarantine confirmed cases and cohorts to prevent the spread of the disease on campus.

In trying to best prepare our staff, parents, and students for the months ahead during this challenging time, I want to highlight the above data trends noted and let you know it is plausible Sonoma County will remain on the state watch list for the foreseeable future. This means our distance learning only model may be necessary through December. I should note, it's far too early to finalize this plan, and we will certainly take it as it comes, but I want to make sure we understand where the trend line and projections are moving us towards. We will keep an eye on this and keep you informed along the way.

Thank you, we are all on this journey together! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at mreno@alexandervalleyusd.org

Stay Cool,

Mr. Reno