



Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District #3

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“Every Student, Every Day, Preparing for Tomorrow”

12/9/20

Dear Rams Families,

I hope this email finds you well. The CJSD Governing Board convened last night for its regular meeting and approved to move back into our distance learning model beginning, Friday, Dec. 18th. This means the last day for students to be on campus will be Thursday, Dec. 17th. Distance learning will continue through Friday, Jan. 8th. The School Dashboard metrics have shown that we have reached the “substantial transmission” category. Our metrics last week showed the following: confirmed cases 372/100K, positivity rate 16.3%, and hospitalizations 12.1%. We anticipate those numbers to further increase tomorrow when the updated metrics are made available.

This was an incredibly difficult decision for the governing board to make, as we all want our students on campus learning. With the current conditions as they exist, the board felt it was time to take a step back and move into distance learning for the health and safety of our educational community. They will reconvene for a special board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 5th to review the current data at the time to make an informed decision on whether to continue in distance learning after Jan. 8th.

We will provide weekly updates, but we wanted to get some information out as soon as possible to help our families prepare for this change.

- Beginning Friday, Dec. 18th and throughout our distance learning model, the district will offer Onsite Learning Opportunities (OLO) at school for any student who needs a place to work. This will be available from 8:20 am – 2:30 pm. Students can be picked up at noon each day (as most instructional activities will be taught by then) or 2:30 if they need extended time. Students will receive free breakfast and lunch during this time.
- The district will also offer free curbside breakfast and lunch pickup for students/families as we have in the past from 8:30-9:30 am each day at the front of the school.
- The district will checkout Chromebooks to all students prior to leaving for the winter break. We will work with those families who are in need of internet access.
- Teachers will be communicating to students/families the specifics of their Google Classroom instruction. For some of our younger students we will also have learning packets available.
- Bus transportation will NOT be available during distance learning.
- For those students who are already enrolled in the CJSD Online Learning Academy, they will continue with their studies as they have been. Beginning next week, we will have our “open enrollment” period (Mon.-Wed.) for students who wish to move into our academy (more information to follow).
- CJSD administration will continue to provide weekly parent updates with more specific information in the coming days.

As we enter the holiday break, I want everyone to be mindful to PLEASE not send your children to school if they are exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. When students come to school with a household exposure, they threaten the safety of others on campus (students and adults). We have quarantined a total of 31 students due to school exposure and of that 25 were from two incidents (one resulted in a classroom closure due to two or more positive cases). When students are involved in large gatherings (parties, sleepovers, etc.) the chance of infection increases. If those students are exposed to someone who has tested positive and come to school, we are forced to unnecessarily quarantine those around them through contact tracing.

We know these next couple of months will be extremely trying for our educational community and our communities as a whole. We will get through this together as we support one another. Please know that we are a phone call away for guidance and resources. As always, we thank you for your understanding.

Stay strong and be safe RAMS Families!

Danny Brown, Superintendent