

# Portola Valley School District

Roberta Zarea, Superintendent

June 26, 2020

Dear PVSD Staff & Community,

While we are only two weeks into summer vacation, I wanted to reach out with an update given the uncertainty we are all living with during these unprecedented times.

We are working diligently behind the scenes to ensure we create a plan for the upcoming school year that is in the best interest of our students and staff. Since the pandemic closed our schools in March, we have been working closely with the San Mateo County Health Department, San Mateo County Office of Education, Board of Trustees, Staff and Administration. In late May, we created the Portola Valley School District Pandemic Recovery Group, composed of our Administrators, Staff, a School Board Trustee and Parents. I am humbled at how thoughtful and diligent this group has been as they take on the complex and quickly-evolving task of preparing a plan for the upcoming academic year. Our community has come together in extraordinary ways.

In June, the San Mateo County Office of Education published the [Pandemic Recovery Framework for Schools](#), which all schools within our County, both public and private, must follow. The San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools, the San Mateo County Health Officer, school district superintendents and staff, and members of the San Mateo County Counsel's Office collaborated on drafting the Framework. The Steering Committee of the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities and members of San Mateo County School Board's Association reviewed the Framework and provided recommendations. This Framework provides school leaders with the health, education, and legal guidance needed to develop local plans for a safe return to on-campus instruction and learning after campus closures in response to community spread of COVID-19 beginning in March 2020. Each district's situation is unique, and you will inevitably hear about schools within our County planning for the next academic year in different ways. I am grateful for the flexibility the Framework provides to allow us to do what best fits our community's needs, but we will need to adhere to the guidelines to ensure our community remains safe during this ongoing pandemic.

## **What's Next?**

**I understand everyone is eager to learn more about what the next academic year will look like. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing more detailed information about what the next academic year will look like, but providing information to you is only part of the equation. Your feedback is equally important. Please know that we highly value your input and take your feedback seriously. You are always welcome to contact me directly, but I wanted to make you aware of several opportunities in the coming weeks for you to provide feedback, including:**

- **Survey:** Within the next week, parents will receive a survey which is intended to gather information from Portola Valley School District parents about their feelings and plans for when Portola Valley School District reopens in the fall. While we have surveyed the community and staff in the past, we feel the need to obtain refreshed views given this pandemic has been going on for months.

- **Parent Listening Sessions:** We will be hosting Pandemic Recovery Parent Listening Sessions so we can hear directly from you. We encourage you to participate in at least one of these sessions, which will be held via Zoom. Stay tuned for more information.

- **School Board Study Session:** On July 9th, we will host a School Board Study Session to discuss the preliminary plans for the upcoming academic school year. This meeting is open to the public, and we encourage your attendance. Please visit our district's Board Docs [site](#) for more details as the date approaches.

- **School Board Special Session:** On July 16th, we will host a School Board Special Session for the Board to approve our Pandemic Recovery Plan. This meeting is open to the public, and we encourage your attendance. Please visit our district's Board Docs [site](#) for more details as the date nears.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership and support during this time. I hope you are staying safe and creating some fun memories during this unique summer.

With warm regards and heartfelt appreciation,

*Roberta*

Superintendent of Portola Valley School District

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