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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2021 CONTACT: Allan Mucerino Superintendent of Schools 2Superintendent@alvordschools.org



The Alvord Unified School District reopened its doors for in-person instruction for all grade levels on Monday, March 22, 2021 for the 13,831 students in the hybrid program. The 3,765 students in the district's Virtual Academy remained learning at a distance.

It was with great enthusiasm that Alvord Unified School District welcomed our students back to our campuses this past week. The hybrid program serves 10,967 students divided into two cohorts, Cohort A and Cohort B. They attend in-person two-days a week and join their classmates virtually the two days of the week the other cohort attends in-person. An additional 2,864 students in the hybrid program are assigned to Cohort D and attend classroom instruction virtually all four days. We also provide 4 days of in-person instruction for some of our students with exceptional needs in the state-approved small cohort program. TK-5 students attend school from approximately 8 am - 1 pm, depending on the school's start time. Middle level students attend from 8:30 to 2:15. High school students attend from 7:30 to 1:30. These hours apply to all students, regardless of their cohort group or whether they are learning in-person or remotely.

All learning is virtual on Fridays for all students while we deep-clean our classrooms and campuses and prepare them for the following week. We also sanitize our classrooms and campuses nightly using the innovative Clorox 360 electrostatic sprayer with the patented power wrap technology. Other key safety strategies include maintaining 6-feet of social distancing in all classrooms, 4-6 feet of distancing in all campus spaces, the use of desk shields and barriers in classrooms and other campus spaces such as the cafeteria, and face coverings for everyone on campus at all times.

In addition to campus safety measures, we utilize a non-touch entry access system kiosk for efficient check-in and elevated temperature screening. Families that choose to voluntarily COVID-19 test may participate in a free testing program and be provided a take-home antigen testing kit every other week to self-administer. We have also partnered with the City of Riverside to provide COVID-19 testing with their testing partner, Curative. We provide a grab-and-go meal for all students at the end of each school day since they do not return in-person the following day. Families in the virtual program may pick-up a 7-day meal packet every Friday. Visit our reopening schools web site here for all of our safety measures and other reopening details. Watch a 7-minute video on our safe reopening here.

We utilize a concurrent teaching model for all grade levels for students in the hybrid program, whereby students are "in the classroom" for live (synchronous) instruction four days a week. Two days in-person and two remotely. Our teachers have the professional discretion to deliver the program as it best fits their students' age group, the subject matter, and students' overall learning needs. One size does not fit all. Students utilize Chromebooks to connect remotely. In some learning environments, students will connect to a virtual learning classroom even while they are in-person, to facilitate collaboration with their peers who are learning from home.

Physical education, visual and performing arts, support services, intervention, and other specialized programming are provided regardless of whether or not students attend in-person. For physical education and recess for students attending in-person, CDPH safety guidelines for safe play are strictly followed. For our student-athletes, we are following CDPH, as well as Riverside County's youth sports guidelines to fully participate in CIF athletic competitions.

ABOUT US: <u>Alvord Unified School District</u> serves the westernmost portion of the city of Riverside, as well as parts of the city of Corona and an unincorporated area of Riverside County. We serve 17,701 students in fourteen TK-5 elementary schools, four 6-8 middle schools, three comprehensive 9-12 high schools, and two alternative education centers.

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