



Lowell Joint School District

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter (Update #12)

June 22, 2020

The Lowell Joint Family continues to rise to the challenge and it is one of our “finest hours”. As we have shared, first and most importantly: We are planning to reopen our schools as normal in the fall for students and staff who can safely return. We will do this in full compliance with the directives we receive from the State of California and the Public Health Department. We have already shared an outline of our adaptable plan that will enable Lowell Joint to respond to the health scenarios without compromising the education of our students. We still have two months before school is scheduled to reopen in August and the ever changing landscape will change at least 3-4 more times before we get to August 12, 2020.

As we continue to plan for multiple options for the Opening of the 2020/2021 School Year, we want to keep our Lowell Joint Families updated so that when the time comes you will be able to make informed decisions that best support your families and students. One key aspect is the opening of our **Lowell Joint Virtual Academy**, which will provide a strong instructional program for students/families who cannot and/or are not comfortable returning to school in the Fall. Please keep in mind that returning to school would only be in accordance with the Governor and California Public Health approval and abiding with their directives. The **Lowell Joint Virtual Academy** will be available no matter which program stage we are allowed to start the 2020/2021 school with.

In order to support our families and provide information, we want to provide you with some upcoming information and dates:

- Enrollment in the **Lowell Joint Virtual Academy**: Enrollment will be completed in mid-late July through your normal annual data confirmation process, which will open July 13, 2020 and needs to be completed by August 3rd & 4th.
- Informational Zoom Meeting: We will host an informational parent meeting for anyone who would like information regarding the **Virtual Academy** on July 16, 2020 (6-7 p.m.). Please do not complete online data confirmation until after this meeting so that you can make an informed decision regarding what is best for your student.
- Deadline for Enrolling: The deadline for enrolling, through the standard data confirmation process, will be July 24, 2020. This allows us to organized enrollment and assign teachers to the virtual classes.
- Parent Training: A specialized parent training will be provided for all families who chose to enroll in the **Virtual Academy** on July 30, 2020 (9-12 noon). This will provide crucial information and training related to the online learning platforms and processes.
- Virtual Academy Start Date: The **Virtual Academy** will operate on the same schedule as our traditional in-class program, which means instruction will begin on August 12, 2020. The **Virtual Academy** will operate on a six-week time period, which means families who enroll must remain in the program for the full six weeks. We will have students who must enroll into the **Virtual Academy** on an ongoing basis based on their personal circumstances.

We continue to monitor both Orange County and Los Angeles County Public Health restrictions as we implement our **Adaptable Plan** for our return to school for the 2020/2021 school year, which aligns with the Governor’s Phase for re-opening California and how they will impact our ability to return to school and learn at each phase:

Full Program: Students return to school in a traditional manner with wellness practices firmly reinforced while a continued full-time distance-learning option will be available for families. (Aligned with State Phase 3). School opens August 12, 2020 in a traditional format with all of the Public Health precautions addressed. (7th Grade is half day on August 11, 2020).

Hybrid Instructional Program: Students return to school in blended program with a portion of their week in-person and a portion through distance-learning in order to maintain the social-distancing requirements. A continued full-time distance-learning option would be available for families. (Aligned with the State Stage 2).

Fulltime Distance-Learning Program, shelter in place - nothing on campus: Students return to a full online distance-learning curriculum which would be implemented at all grade levels. Schools would remain closed and all one-on-one/small group instruction would be done virtually. Grading would continue and student attendance would be monitored. (Aligned with State Stage 1).

The Lowell Joint Family Really Is In This Together...

Our commitment to each other as members of the Lowell Joint Family is so important. Students, parents, and staff will continue to develop our best and safest way to serve together. One way is our joint commitment to safety and shared responsibility, which is a part of your annual data confirmation process. This enhanced signed commitment will outline the required health/wellness protocols and behavioral expectations for all including a corresponding waiver.

Preserving our long standing Tradition of Excellence and Traditional Values...

Though our immediate concern is the safety of our students, staff, and community, we continue to be committed to our Core Values and educational programs that make Lowell Joint the Home of Scholars and Champions. With this plan we are seeking to build a safe learning environment to do what we do best: serve and learn together, on our school campuses, through a hybrid plan, or the **Lowell Joint Virtual Academy**. We have been so blessed by our wonderful families and incredible staff; therefore, we want to mindfully focus on maintaining our traditions.

We will continue to share new information as we get closer to the fall. The strength, compassion, and resilience today is an incredible testimony to the shared dedication and commitment of our students, staff, parents, and community; THANK YOU – WE ARE BLESSED! Please make sure to find time this summer to truly rest and refresh as we plan to return this fall to teaching and learning as is our tradition.