



*“Home of Scholars and Champions”*

*Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter* (Update #13)

## Lowell Joint **STRONG**

July 15, 2020

The Lowell Joint Family certainly made the Spring of 2020 one of our “finest hours” and we are so proud of our families and staff as we continue to carefully make our transition into the 2020/2021 school year. We continue to stand in faith as we are **LOWELL JOINT STRONG**. As we have shared, we have been planning to reopen our schools in full compliance with the directives we receive from the State of California and the County Public Health Department. We are all aware of the current shifts related to COVID-19, which has resulted in a new Public Health Department Order and Governor Executive Order late Monday. We have been working with our Strategic Planning Team, in the ongoing development of our **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM** (located on our LJSD webpage), which was shared in our last two Healthy Families Updates and by design allows us to adjust/pivot based on which “Phase” the Governor and Public Health Department places us in. (Reminder below and on our webpage). The Board of Trustees have been incredible as they have carefully reviewed volumes of information and worked with our staff to help guide us in each step we take. We know that our entire Lowell Joint Family is very concerned and anxious to know where we will be at on the **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM**; thank you for being so patient as we have worked hard to stay in alignment with all of the Public Agencies and try to limit the amount of switching back-and-forth.

As we are sure you are aware, Monday afternoon the Governor made a major pivot by adjusting the State from Phase 2 back to Phase 1 for many sectors. Upon review of the all the information, data, regional LA County Public Health Department Orders, California Public Health Orders, and Governor Executive Orders the Board of Trustees has decided that out of an abundance of caution and care for the safety of our students and staff we will begin the 2020/2021 school year by resuming in a full distance-learning model for all students through at least September 8, 2020. As we continue to implement our **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM** we hope and anticipate returning to a Hybrid model September 8<sup>th</sup>, which would be in alignment with the authority of the Governor transitioning us back into Phase 2 and in compliance LA County Public Health Orders.

Our staff has already been working on general instruction plans for the opening of the 2020/2021 school year and they will now be able to dig in deep to refine their planning. There are a wide range of details that we will be able to share within the next two weeks related to materials, instruction, format, etc.; therefore, please be on the lookout for the next Healthy Families Update in the next two of weeks and also on our webpage; we are **LOWELL JOINT STRONG**.

As a reminder, we already have an Informational Town Hall zoom meeting this evening (7/15/20) from 5:30-6:30pm. We will be sharing the information that is in this update, along with our **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM** chart. There has been a concern that Zoom only has the capacity for a 1000 attendees;

therefore, we have also arranged to live-stream the informational meeting via Facebook so that no-one is left out. The meeting will also be recorded and posted on our webpage. This meeting will be a presentation of information only and considering that we are anticipating a large number of folks attending, we will not have a Q&A time, but will have a Google Form on our home webpage so that folks can submit their questions. We will review the questions and include additional information in our next Healthy Families Updates to help provide the additional information our families are requesting. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Many families have expressed interest in the **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY (6 WEEK INCREMENTS)**, which will still be available for students/families who cannot and/or are not comfortable returning to school in the Fall. These families will need to continue to enroll in the **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY (6 WEEK INCREMENTS)** so that your student starts the year assigned to their specific teacher, which they will be working with for the weeks/months ahead. We want to ensure our students maintain as much instructional continuity as we can provide them. As a reminder:

- Enrollment: To be completed through your normal annual data confirmation process, which opened July 13, 2020.
- Informational Zoom Meeting: We will host an informational zoom meeting for anyone who would like information regarding the **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY** on July 16, 2020 (6-7pm). The meeting information was emailed to all families. 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: Enrollment deadline, through the standard data confirmation process, will be July 24, 2020. This allows us to organize classes 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 **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY** on July 30, 2020 (9-12N). This will provide crucial information and training related to the online learning platform and process.

### **Looking ahead to when we are able to return - Student/Staff Health and Safety Protocols:**

Our Strategic Planning Team has been working hard to develop our health and safety protocols for when we return to school. These are all in accordance with, or above-and-beyond, the LA County & Orange County, and California County Public Health requirements and guidelines. Much of this information has already been shared with our PTA Rep Council and in previous Healthy Families update, but we want to make sure to continue to update our families (not an exhaustive list and will continue to adjust based on new guidelines):

#### **Campus Wellness/Health/Safety Protocols:**

- Health Office – installation of Plexiglas portable partitions
- Students returning from being sick must have parent complete LA County PHD Health/Wellness Survey, which includes temperature checked before returning to class.
- Students who have been out of the country must quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school; therefore, 14 day independent study.
- Hand washing/sanitizing required after breaks, before lunch, and when returning to class
- Additional handwashing stations: 2-3 outdoor stations plus hand sanitizing stations for each room.
- LA County PHD “Daily Employee Health/Wellness Survey” for all staff
- Implementation of non-contact infrared digital thermometers in the office
- Symptom checking at home for each student before school each day by parents/guardians.
- Installation of portable Infrared Temperature Sensor/detectors at each front office
- Classroom Set-up: students face forward, keep student groups together and less mixing of students during class instruction
- Individual Clear Desk Shields for all classrooms/all students

- Two cloth masks provided to each student; worn in accordance with LA County Pub. Health Order
- Jr. High and Elementary transition to 1:1 take home chromebooks
- Limit visitors on campus to official school business only (tent. Aug- Oct. or California *Stage 4*) and only after LA Public Health/Wellness Pre-Screening (Survey + Temperature Check)
- Volunteers limited to front office support only (tent. Aug- Oct. or California Stage 4) and only after LA Public Health/Wellness Pre-Screening (Survey + Temperature Check)

#### **Campus cleaning protocols:**

- Additional night custodial support for cleaning and sanitizing (Aug.-Oct. or until California moves to *Phase/Stage 4*)
- Daily sanitization power washing of outdoor lunch tables, large eating areas, playground equipment.
- Cleaning in-between lunches of lunch area, lunch lines, bathrooms
- Purchase and implementation of multiple hospital grade UV Disinfecting Units for district-wide use.
- Electrostatic Spray disinfecting equipment and cleaning protocol for each campus, each night.

#### **Reduced/modified large group activities** (when we return, Aug- Oct. or until California moves to *Phase/Stage 4*):

- Postpone: large school assemblies, after school sports, field trips (or until California move to *Stage 4*)
- Virtual/zoom Back-to-School
- Fall Parent Conference as normal
- Modified: awards assemblies (in class), open additional entrances for arrival and dismissal time

#### **Keeping the Lowell Joint Family Informed and Connected...**

We want to continue to stay connected as we continue to pivot/adjust our **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM** based on the ever changing guidance and directives from the State of California and the Public Health Department; which changes about every 3-4 days. We will continue to share new information and school specific information as we get closer to the fall. Your continued strength, compassion, and resilience are an incredible testimony to the shared dedication and commitment of our students, staff, parents, and community; **THANK YOU – WE ARE BLESSED!**

## **LOWELL JOINT STRONG!!**

**REMINDER:** We will continue to monitor both Orange County and LA County Public Health Departments restrictions as we continue to implement our **Adaptable Plan Continuum** for 2020/2021 opening of school, which aligns with the Governor’s Phases for re-opening California and how they will impact our ability to return to school and learn at each phase (as a reminder):

- I. **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*). The full-time **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY (6 WEEK INCREMENTS)** option will still be available for families.
- II. **Hybrid Instructional Program:** Students return to school in a blended program with a portion of their week in-person and a portion through distance-learning in order to maintain the social-distancing requirements. The full-time **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY (6 WEEK INCREMENTS)** option will still be available for families. (Aligned with the *State Stage 2*).
- III. **Fulltime Distance-Learning Program,** shelter in place - nothing on campus. (Aligned with *State Stage 1*). This is if we were to return to the State Phase 1. The full-time **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY (6 WEEK INCREMENTS)** option will still be available for families.

**You can find the complete Adaptable Plan Continuum on our webpage [ljsd.org](http://ljsd.org).**