



*“Home of Scholars and Champions”*

*Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter* (Update #14)

## *Lowell Joint* **STRONG**

July 23, 2020

We continue to thank our entire Lowell Joint Family for your extreme patience and understanding as we are constantly pivoting to adjust to each day’s new circumstances. We have shared previously that there are two constants: 1) the circumstances/rules/guidelines will change every 2-4 days; therefore, 2) we will only have more questions than answers. By design, our **ADAPTABLE PLAN CONTINUUM** (LJSD webpage) allows us to pivot/adjust based on which “Phase” the Governor and Public Health Department places us in. The Board of Trustees has been incredible as they have carefully reviewed volumes of information and worked with our staff to help guide us in each step we take. The entire Lowell Joint staff continues to work hard to prepare and do our best to support our students in the safest environment possible.

As we once again pivot, based on the most recent Governor’s Executive Order, we have been working this week to plan for the opening of the 2020/2021 school year and the assignment of students to their teacher’s classes. One of our goals is to try and maintain the most consistent education for our students as we can. Considering the guidelines from the Governor and the Public Health Department, we will be assigning **all** students to their existing school’s classroom teachers for Full-Time Distance Learning. This means that students will start the year with the teacher(s) that they would have normally had. When the time comes, that we are allowed to re-open for our hybrid/in-person instruction, we will circle back to everyone who has shown interest in the Virtual Academy.

Our goal is to try and maintain as much educational continuity as possible, in a time when change is constant and stability feels shaky. We continue to remind ourselves that Lowell Joint is built on solid rock since 1906 and that we will stand strong as the storms and challenges come our way – **LOWELL JOINT STRONG!** Our district families have succeeded through WWI, WWII, polio, The Great Depression, The Spanish Flu, The Cold War and more; we will succeed once again.

We also realize that each time a new pivot-decision is made, our families and staff have 101 new questions regarding the details of how we move forward. Our Strategic Planning Team continues to refine our district-wide guidance that will then be tailored to meet the unique needs of each campus. We truly appreciate your patience as we all walk along this path together and continue to pivot/adjust to an ever changing landscape. Each family will receive a school specific update in the next few days that will guide you through the opening of each school’s tailored plan for pick-up of instructional materials, Chromebooks, etc.

**The Lowell Joint Family Really Is In This Together... LOWELL JOINT STRONG**  
**THANK YOU – WE ARE BLESSED!**

Jim Coombs,  
Superintendent of Schools

## **REPEAT OF KEY INFORMATION & DATES:**

**LJSD Adaptable Plan Continuum** (REMINDER): We will continue to monitor both Orange County and LA County Public Health Departments restrictions as we implement our **Adaptable Plan Continuum** for 2020/2021 opening of school to align 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:

- I. **Full Program:** Students return to school in a traditional manner with wellness practices firmly reinforced while a continued full-time distance-learning option, **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY**, is still available for families. (Aligned with *State Phase 3*).
- 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** 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*).