



“Home of Scholars and Champions”

Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter (Update #15)

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

August 7, 2020

What a crazy and unpredictable time we are all living through! There are times that it feels overwhelming, but it is at these times that I stand amazed to witness the immense courage, care, creativity, and love that our teachers, staff, and families are providing to students, families, and each other. We continue to stand in faith knowing that we will come out stronger at the other end; we know that we are not given anything more than we can handle☺. We also know that there is power in words; the ones we speak to each other and to ourselves. Keep **pausing to take a breath**; we will overcome and succeed; we are **LOWELL JOINT STRONG**. We want to thank all of our parent and staff volunteers who have rushed in to help us, once again to pivot on a dime to launch 100% distance-learning for the 2020/21 school year. **You are amazing!!**

As you are aware 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. While we are hopeful that the State and County Public Health Department see significant improvements in the COVID data and we will be allowed to return to in-person instruction, we have to begin to prepare ourselves that there is a very good chance that they will extend online distance learning. Our incredible staff are already well underway in their preparation, even though they too would rather teach in-person.

As you may have noticed on the TK-8 Distance Learning Plan Guide, we have switched our typical early release Monday schedules to Wednesday. This is in anticipation for when we are allowed to return to our Hybrid model of in-person instruction. This will put us in alignment with the Fullerton Joint Union High School District hybrid model of early release on Wednesdays. It is our hope that this will help support our families who have students in both districts.

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions from a recent Town Hall Information night. We have attempted to answer each individual question from the online Q&A and we have attached the complete list of questions and answers with this update so that everyone is updated. We hope this is helpful, but please know that the Governor and Public Health directives will most certainly cause all districts to pivot as we walk this path together. Thank you for your patience, grace and mercy.

On a personal note; Stephanie and I have had the opportunity to discuss our current National and State challenges with our four boys, who are teenagers and 20 something's. It has been both interesting and refreshing to hear their thought process, yet it has given me pause to think about our young LJSD students who are so young and simply trying to make sense of life. So many things are out of our control these days, yet we know it is the family and the school family that help bring stability. Thank you for taking the time to listen, take walks, and give them the extra hug and “I love yous”. Grace and mercy seem to be in short supply these days and so many folks want to have a mean-spirited approach, but grace and mercy is exactly what our students, our staff, and we ourselves need. Social-media has also become a place where so many folks want

to spread gloom and “arm-chair quarterback”. LJSD is called to speak life; please help us speak life into our students, into our staff, and into each other. 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 Department restrictions as we implement our **Adaptable Plan Continuum** for 2020 Open 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** option would still be available for families.
- II. **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. The full-time **LOWELL JOINT VIRTUAL ACADEMY** option would 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** option would still be available for families.

You can find the complete Adaptable Plan Continuum on our webpage ljsd.org