



SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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April 8, 2021

ERIC FREDRICKSON
Superintendent
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Dear Sylvan Union School District Staff and Families,

Over this last month, the district has successfully implemented the final stages of providing both an in-person learning option and a distance learning option (Sylvan SeLECT) to all grade levels in our school district. The district is pleased that students now have two choices of educational models to choose from, and those students who have been waiting to attend in-person are now able to do so.

Since March 20th, when the California Department of Public Health issued new guidance that reduced the minimum student social distancing requirements from 4 feet to 3 feet for in-person learning, there have been numerous inquiries from our school community regarding the impact these changes will have on our in-person instructional programs for the remainder of this school year and the impact on the district's planning for the 2021-22 school year.

Regarding the remainder of this school year, now that all the grade levels are participating in either in-person learning or distance learning, the district is increasing its focus on ways to expand the number of in-person instructional days for students in grades 4-8 who are currently enrolled in an in-person hybrid model for Trimester 3. The district is in the process of formulating a plan to increase the number of in-person instructional days each week and will be communicating with both staff and families of 4-8 grade students in the near future regarding any possible changes.

Each year school districts are required to administer a statewide assessment, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) to students in grades 3-8 in the area of English-language arts and mathematics. This year due to the pandemic, the California Department of Education is providing districts the option to either administer the SBAC or administer a locally provided assessment that aligns with the California State Standards. Our district has made the decision to continue administration of our locally provided assessment tool in English-language arts and mathematics which will provide valuable information regarding student progress in meeting

Our Mission:

To provide a dynamic, broad-based education that prepares each child to be a contributing member of society.

the California State Standards. This assessment will be administered during the month of May.

Although the district can not predict what the status of the pandemic will be in August or what the local and state health and safety guidelines will be at that time, it is the district's intent to provide in-person learning, five days a week for all grade levels next school year. The district is currently exploring the possibility of providing a distance learning program for next school year, but is awaiting further direction from the California Department of Education permitting districts to provide this type of program once the Governor's executive order is lifted.

The district is taking an optimistic approach for next school year and will be planning accordingly, but if in the meantime, a state mandate is issued that limits the district's ability to implement this plan or health and safety guidance becomes more restrictive, we are prepared to shift gears and once again provide modified quality programs for our students.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our school community for your continued support and patience during this very difficult school year. Please join me in remaining hopeful as we successfully complete the 2020-2021 school year and plan for good things to come.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Fredrickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned to the left of a vertical line that separates it from the printed name below.

Eric Fredrickson
Superintendent