



Reopening Update #20; February 10, 2021

Dear SVUSD Community,

Now that the second half of the school year is well underway, I wanted to provide you with some updates as we progress through 2020-2021.

First, with many California schools still in full Distance Learning, I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated teachers and staff for their hard work which has allowed us to offer in-person instruction through the Hybrid Model, and it is our great hope to return to a more traditional in-person model as soon as possible. However, it is important to note that currently, we are limited by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines regarding physical distancing within the classrooms.

We continue to collaborate with the CDPH, the Orange County Healthcare Agency (OCHCA), and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) on health and safety guidelines and protocols as we navigate through the state's tiered color system for reopening. Currently, the guidelines remain the same for physical distancing within the classrooms, resulting in the continuation of the current SVUSD Hybrid model of instruction for the time being. Upon the release of modified guidelines or a shift for Orange County to a different colored tier (we are currently in purple), we will assess our current model and notify you of any possible changes. Additionally, once the vaccination is more widely distributed, we are hopeful that the physical distancing guidelines will be revised which would allow us the ability to open up our school sites more fully. No decisions have been made regarding the 2021-22 school year at this time, but we hope with the vaccinations coming, it will be possible to offer traditional in-person learning.

As the status of our instructional program offerings are dependent on many factors, including physical distancing and mass gathering directives, so is the status of the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2021. We know that our seniors are looking forward to June 3rd and we are hopeful that we will be able to offer an in-person graduation ceremony, whether that be a traditional ceremony, a modified version of the traditional ceremony, or through alternate graduation activities. Regardless of which activities are ultimately planned, **graduation will occur on Thursday, June 3, 2021**. Our high school administrators are in constant collaboration and will continue to stay abreast of the latest guidance and its effects on graduation ceremonies. We will keep you informed as updates become available. Thank you for your patience as we plan for this important date.

We are excited to announce that high school athletics competitions are resuming based on Orange County's current position in the purple tier. Per guidelines from the CDPH, OCHCA, and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), sports in the purple tier are permitted to begin competitions provided the recommended health and safety guidelines are followed. The CIF Southern Section is in the fall season, or season 1, and the sport currently permitted to compete

is boys' and girls' cross country. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community is our top priority and all of the competition procedures have been designed to meet this goal. In accordance with CDPH recommendations, the general public is not yet permitted to attend high school sporting events.

We will continue to update you as we receive more information regarding physical distancing requirements in the classroom, directives on mass gatherings, and vaccines. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Crystal Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent