

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10

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Howard J. Thiery
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MEMO

To: Region 10 Community Members
From: Howard Thiery, Superintendent of Schools
Date: March 22, 2020

Re: Superintendent's Update 3/22/2020

Region 10 Community Members,

I hope this email finds you and your families safe and well. We are certainly in a period of time unlike anything we have experienced as a community or a school system. Tomorrow we will embark on a new journey, school district wide, as a response to the Covid19 pandemic. Our teachers, coordinators, and administrative team have all worked hard to put together the start of a new system for teaching and learning. It is one that we all know will need to adapt and evolve as we move forward, but it based on the very best experience of the professional community in Region 10 along with our collegial partnerships across the state and we also had the unique insights of over 50 International American schools in China, Italy and Japan that have been closed but teaching for 4-8 weeks. Our plan is to engage our students and advance their learning in all the areas of our education landscape. We are also trying to do this in a manner that recognizes that this is a new way of teaching and learning and that students' days and lives are in a new and complex place. While I believe that excellent thought and design went into our system, I also acknowledge, up front, that things are bound to go wrong or need improvement. We will be watching carefully. We will be seeking feedback from teachers, families and students in the next few weeks so that we can adapt and evolve our program moving forward. I am sincerely asking everyone to engage as best they can, be patient with the new systems and if you need help please ask your teacher or principal. We are standing at the ready every day to work toward our students' success.

In other news the Governor released a new Executive Order this weekend that closed all nonessential business through April 22, 2020. We have received guidance from the Governor that this does include schools. So, based on this order Region 10 schools will be closed through April 22nd. We have also received clear guidance from the Commissioner of Education that based on the Governor's 180-day waiver and provided that our district pursues educational continuity through distance learning to the best of our ability the expectation is the last day of school can be on the date planned prior to the Covid19 closure. This date is June 15th for Region 10 due to the three snow days earlier in the year. Therefore, at this time barring new circumstance June 15 is still our anticipated last day of school. Graduation is still planned for June 10, 2020.

I would like to remind everyone that it is very important that our community follow the social distancing guidelines that have been laid out. This event is going to get worse before it gets better and we have some control over how bad it gets. I have friends in Northern Italy where their very good hospital system has been overwhelmed and they have run out of caskets and morgue spaces to meet the fatality rate. This is not something we want for our community. The new data on Covid19 tells us this is even more serious than originally thought for people of a wide variety of ages and health statuses. So be smart, stay well and stay home as much as possible.

We are committed to making the very best of this including continuing to adapt to an ever-changing situation. I am more grateful than I can say for the commitment shown by our professionals and by the support we have received from the community. This may be a longer journey than we would wish but we can get through it if we all pull together. Good luck this week!

Stay well and we will stay in touch!

Howard Thiery
Superintendent
Regional School District 10