
PVUSD PROGRESS

progress *n* [ME, fr. *L. progressus* advance, fr. *progressus*, pp. of *progredi* to go forth, fr. *pro-* forward + *gradi* to go – more at PRO-, GRADE] **1a**: a royal journey marked by pomp and pageant **b**: an expedition, journey, or march through a region. **2**: a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal) : ADVANCE **3**: gradual betterment; esp : the progressive development of mankind – **in progress** : going on : OCCURRING

Press Release

For immediate release

September 11, 2001

Contact: Dr. John Casey
Phone: 786-2135

In response to today's tragic set of events, we have distributed letters to students, parents, and staff members that reconfirm to all our commitment to keep students, staff, and families safe and secure on the way to and from school and while at school.

We kept schools open today, and unless we receive a recommendation from the governor or president to close schools, our schools will remain open. We certainly understand that some parents may want to keep their children home during this tragic situation. For children who are kept home, there will be no penalty of any kind. To support students and parents who have to go to work or attend to family business, our schools will be kept open. We're here to support your children!

We will continue to work with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, the Watsonville Police Department, and the County Superintendent of Schools to address issues that come up. Counseling services are available to students and staff members in need of these services.

We would like to make the following announcements at this time:

- All School Business Absences will be cancelled for this week. We need to be able to support our fellow employees who might need to attend to family and friends who are directly impacted by this tragedy.
- All Back to School Nights scheduled for this week are cancelled. All other Back to School Nights scheduled for the remainder of September will be held as of this time.
- Student athletic events and practices are being held. Certainly parents who wish to keep their children out of these events may do so without penalty to the student.
- All after school and extended day programs will continue in order to support students and the supervision needs of parents and families.
- The September 12 meeting of the Board will be held as scheduled at 7:00pm in the District Office Board Room.
- All after school and evening district-level meetings, e.g. textbooks and budget, are cancelled
- For students who are kept home, there will be no penalty to students for missing school, including loss of "perfect attendance" status.
- Watsonville/Aptos Adult School classes scheduled for this week will be held.
- We will watch carefully for any acts of reprisal at our schools. Site Equity Teams will be employed to help address these issues.
- The District has an Employee Assistance Program to support staff in need. If an employee needs assistance, they can call 800 227-1060

I would like to recognize and thank all staff members, both classified and certificated, for their support during this time of crisis. We do create a refuge for students and families; staff efforts at this time have been greatly appreciated!

If you have any question or suggestions to help us deal with this situation, please do not hesitate to call.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District