



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Edition #10 – Week of June 8, 2020

*Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community—
only 5 questions were asked this week*

1. My child is going into first grade next school year. What are the options for summer school?

During summer break, all elementary and middle school students will continue to have access to English Language Arts and Math software in order for them to continue working on academic content. These programs include Lexia, Paso a Paso (Footsteps2Brilliance), ST Math or MAP Accelerator. In addition, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) website will be available for students to access a variety of enrichment activities beginning the week of June 22, 2020. To request a kit, families can call the Extended Learning office at 786-2360 or email extended_learning@pvusd.net.

2. Your last FAQ included information about the summer STEAM program. However, when I requested a STEAM kit I was told I would be on the wait list and that students with the highest academic need would be prioritized. I then inquired about purchasing a kit for my middle school child and/or resources for any other summer STEAM programs that could be recommended, but I have not received a response. Can you please provide recommended resources/programs for over the summer by grade level that we can access? Thank you

All of the STEAM kits will be released the week of June 22, 2020. We have purchased enough materials to ensure that all identified students including those on the waitlist will receive a kit. You can also go onto our PVUSD website for the [Learning Activity Ideas](#) for Parents to find resources in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Music. In addition, there are in-person [summer camps](#) from the Santa Cruz County Parks in partnership with the City of Watsonville that will be available which will include STEAM focused activities.

3. With the most recent killings of innocent black people, the protests happening all over our country, and the stronger rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, has PVUSD considered adding Antiracism to the curriculum? I am teaching my child about Antiracism, White Privilege, White Supremacy, etc. but I feel like it is a topic that needs to be addressed within our schools because many children might go without this imperative education from their respective families. Teaching our children about Black History month/National Hispanic Heritage month, and to be kind, respectful, mindful, inclusive, etc. is not enough to help prevent systemic racism from continuing in future generations.

On Wednesday, June 10, 2020 our PVUSD Board of Trustees approved a resolution regarding addressing the effects of systemic racism. Part of the resolution highlighted our high school Ethnic Studies courses with PVUSD. In 2018, PVUSD implemented our first Ethnic Studies English Course which has expanded to a total of 7 sections at three high schools. Students who took the first Ethnic Studies English class asked for an upper division class to be created to continue with their Ethnic Studies Education. A team of teachers worked together to create the Ethnic Literature and Studies II course, a continuation of Ethnic Literature and Studies I, which includes materials designed by community leader Dr. Christine Sleeter. Students use self-awareness of their place in the world, as well as their learnings about people from different cultures and backgrounds, to further explore the main themes found in our first course: identity and narrative, humanization

and dehumanization, hegemony and normalization, youth action. Ethnic Studies II will examine the effects of racializing people and minority groups in the United States from the 19th century to present. This course will further develop students' analytical and critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing skills as they examine historical and contemporary issues of race, ethnicity, and identity. Simultaneously, students will learn about corresponding resistance movements. This course aims to empower students to become socially and politically active so they can make a change in their own communities.

4. If students split going to school a few days a week at the school site and distance learning the other days, will the district be providing daycare for children on the days they are not at the school site, since parents will be at their jobs?

We recognize that this will be a need for some parents. We are currently working with community partners to identify childcare options which will be included in the PVUSD Draft Reopening of Schools Contingency Plan to be released on Friday, June 19, 2020.

5. When will the plans for the 2020-2021 school year be released?

The PVUSD Draft Reopening of Schools Contingency Plan will be released for public review and feedback on Friday, June 19, 2020.