



# Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Edition #15 – Week of July 20, 2020

*Questions are quoted as I received them directly from our community*

- 1. Why haven't we announced distance only for at least the first semester so that teachers can learn how to teach our kids that way now? "The Coronavirus Can Be Airborne Indoors, W.H.O. Says The agency also explained more directly that people without symptoms may spread the virus. The acknowledgments should have come sooner, some experts said.... .. mounting evidence has suggested that in crowded indoor spaces, the virus can stay aloft for hours and infect others and may even seed so-called super spreader events.**  
On July 14, 2020, PVUSD, PVFT and CSEA released a joint press release announcing that due to increasing infection rates, it was clear that the pandemic is not yet under control and returning to class is not safe. The recommendation was made to fully shift and open with a PK-12 Distance Learning model for the first semester. Therefore, the teachers, staff and administration will focus all of their attention and resources towards supporting high quality distance learning.
- 2. I don't quite understand. Are school campuses reopening? I hope not. I will not send my child.**  
The recommendation is to fully shift and open with a PK-12 Distance Learning model for the first semester. The PVUSD Board of Trustees will make the official vote on the plan to begin the school year in a PK-12 Distance Learning model at the July 29, 2020 Board Meeting.
- 3. Can a hybrid approach be implemented before the semester ends if COVID case counts are coming down?**  
Our Contingency Plan is designed to provide flexibility and allow us to pivot as necessary. At the same time, we want to create some stability so that staff, parents and the community can plan and prepare for the next few months. Therefore, we determined that we would engage in distance learning for the entire first semester.
- 4. Do I have to sign up my child for distance learning this new school year? Or they are automatically put in distance learning?**  
All PVUSD sites will be engaging in distance learning in grades PK-12. You will not have to sign up or register for the 2020-2021 school year for distance learning unless your child did not attend PVUSD last year.
- 5. Will teachers be required to teach out of their classrooms if a decision is made to begin the school year fully with distance learning (K-12) or will there be an option to work from home?**  
Teachers will be able to provide distance learning instruction from home. If they choose, they may also work from their classroom between the hours of 7:00am - 4:30pm. All campuses will be closed outside of those hours to ensure our ability to continue deep clean and disinfect the sites.

- 6. Thank you for making the decision to start the year off with distance learning. Will teachers be allowed to give and/or loan students materials like math manipulatives, workbooks, notebooks, pencils and other consumables to accompany and support their distance learning assignments and the live teaching sessions we will be providing.**

Yes. As a District, we will be providing each student grades PK-12 with a Back to School Kit which will provide needed resources and supplies according to their grade level. This will ensure that all students have the materials they need to successfully engage in distance learning. A listing of the identified supplies by grade span will be available by August 1, 2020 so that all staff, parents and community members are aware of what each child will be receiving and when the specific day the kits will be available for pick up prior to the start of school. Teachers may provide additional materials according to their classroom's instructional design.

- 7. How about if we start taking attendance with online education this fall? It will help ensure accountability for our students so that they don't fall behind or completely skip their online education this semester. Massive online truancy, if not kept in check, will have dismal consequences for the district when this pandemic is over.**

Yes, we will be providing daily "live" teaching sessions and attendance will be taken during that time. All students will be required to engage in distance learning. If a student is not participating, a process has been developed to support the student and family to identify barriers to their participation and recommendations to increase engagement and learning.

- 8. Will the PVUSD virtual academy have Accelerated Math? and Accelerated LA?**

Yes, all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will have access to accelerated math courses according to their academic level including Algebra I and II Honors, Probability and Statistics Honors, and AP Calculus AB/BC. Likewise, all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will have access to accelerated language arts courses including English I and II Honors, AP English Language and Composition and AP English Literature and Composition. Elementary students seeking acceleration may take middle school courses identified through their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP).

- 9. Will students be able to work at their own pace through PVUSD virtual academy?**

Yes. Students can move through the courses at their own pace. Students are required to do a minimum 20 hours of instruction a week, however, secondary students may move through the courses at a quicker rate with a maximum of 45 credits per semester.

- 10. How will seniors get help with college apps and other related things?**

Yes. Students will continue to have the support of their academic counselors, the EAOP staff at the College and Career Centers throughout the school year through virtual appointments, and access to Naviance while we are engaged in distance learning.