



Ask Dr. Rodriguez



Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Edition #49 – Week of April 26, 2021

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

1. I went to an LCAP Meeting and want to provide my suggestions on how we spend District funds through Thought Exchange. I lost the link. Where do I find the link on the website?

Thank you for coming to one of our LCAP Input Session Meetings. We were glad to see the strong participation of parents and community members at the last meeting. We also invite other members of our community to join us for the next LCAP Input Session Meeting on May 4, 2021 at 5:30pm. You can find the link to the May 4th meeting, and the survey link at the bottom of the front page of the District website or here: <https://www.pvUSD.net/LCAP>.

2. In which edition of Ask Dr. Rodriguez will it be ascertained that every single PVUSD student will receive a full day on in person instruction with a date, not only a projection/promise/hope? Santa Cruz City schools have found a way to make this happen but PVUSD students are still logging into a virtual classroom for half the day and parents struggling to find transportation for two days of 90 minutes of instruction.

All students will return to full day, full time for the 2021-2022 school year. Students who choose to attend summer school will also be going back to full day, full time for summer school starting July 14-August 4, 2021. This information was also shared in prior Ask Dr. Rodriguez editions including #44, #45, and #47.

3. What is the district's expectation of 5th Promotions this year? Will these be virtual? Or in person? And if in person how will COVID protocols and expectations be followed?

PVUSD is pleased to announce that Elementary 5th /6th grade promotion ceremonies will be held in person this year. Sites will be following strict CDPH guidelines just as middle schools and high schools will also be doing throughout our District and across the state of California. All commencement and promotion ceremonies shall adhere to attendance limitations as defined within the current [CDPH Outdoor Seated Live Events and Performances Guidance](#). Outdoor, in-person ceremonies are permissible, consistent with this guidance.

A few examples of these CDPH guidelines to maintain health and safety include: an outside ceremony, limited number of family members with reserved seating, social distancing, time and disinfecting between ceremonies, and screening of all guests. For all of the details on CDPH commencement requirements including information on screening and requirements needed to occur before, during and after the event, you can review the following link: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19-Graduation-Guidance.aspx>

4. When will we know the schedule for high school graduations? Will they be in-person?

All parents of high school seniors were informed of the graduation dates and locations over the past few days. Below is the chart of the dates and times for all middle/intermediate school promotions and high school graduations. All of the events will be in-person following CDPH guidelines noted in question #3.

2021 CEREMONY SCHEDULE BY DATE

School	Date	Time	Location
PCCS	6/1	2:00 pm 8th Grade Promotion 5:00 pm High School Graduation	Santa Cruz Fairgrounds
Pajaro Middle	6/2	9:30 am 8th Grade Promotion	WHS
Alianza Charter	6/2	11:00 am 8th Grade Promotion	Alianza
Lakeview Middle	6/2	1:00 pm 8th Grade Promotion	WHS
Rolling Hills Middle	6/2	3:00 pm 8th Grade Promotion	PVHS
EA Hall Middle	6/2	4:00 pm 8th Grade Promotion	WHS
Renaissance High	6/2	4:00 pm High School Graduation	Santa Cruz Fairgrounds
New School	6/2	5:00 pm High School Graduation	Landmark Field
Aptos Jr.	6/3	10:00 am 8th Grade Promotion	Santa Cruz Fairgrounds
PVHS	6/3	10:00 am HS Graduation #1	PVHS
PVHS	6/3	2:00 pm HS Graduation #2	PVHS
AHS	6/3	4:00 pm High School Graduation	Santa Cruz Fairgrounds
Diamond Tech	6/3	5:30 pm High School Graduation	Diamond Tech
Cesar Chavez Middle	6/4	10:00 am 8th Grade Promotion	PVHS
WHS	6/4	10:00 am HS Graduation #1	WHS
WHS	6/4	2:00 pm HS Graduation #2	WHS
Virtual Academy	6/4	2:00 pm 8th Grade Promotion	PVHS
Virtual Academy	6/4	5:30 pm High School Graduation	PVHS

5. Why has learning time been cut down for parents to pick up at 2:20?

Afternoon in-person instruction should be 1.5 hours for general education students. This time has not been shortened. School sites' arrival and departure times for students may vary due to transportation schedules. Please contact the school site principal or our Elementary or Secondary Superintendents if you have questions or concerns regarding the shortening of in-person instruction.

6. It's my understanding that with extensive planning students and teachers have been placed in groups/cohorts that do not intermingle with other cohorts in effort to minimize covid spread. What protection and measures have been taken to protect substitute teachers as some are bouncing from class to class and even covering multiple schools? A substitute teacher could possibly spend time with over 150 students over a 5 day period in a limited space with minimal ventilation. This idea had not crossed my mind until I was back in the classroom and I'm seeking some reassurance that we are safe. Thank you for your time and attention to my concern.

With our current schedule, we are using minimal numbers of substitute teachers for in-person learning. The substitute teachers we are using mostly work as long-term substitutes with their own group of students. Nevertheless, PVUSD has put in place multiple mitigation factors that protect everyone

including our substitute teachers. All classrooms have upgraded ventilation systems as well as a HEPA filter. The set-up of all classrooms ensures that there is a six-foot distance between teaching staff space and students as well as individual barriers on student desks. All students and staff wear face coverings during instructional time. Substitute teachers have access to both face coverings and face shields through site administration. In addition, all substitute teachers were given access to vaccines through the District, had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated and may engage in our staff surveillance testing.

7. Will there be testing of our children in the Fall when they return full-time? Many, many parents are completely against this.

We will continue to use several District-wide measures at various grade levels to ensure that we can effectively accelerate student learning and reduce any learning loss experienced during COVID-19. One of the important measures that we will continue to use will be Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in grades 2-10 which is an assessment, that measures individual growth and identifies areas for focusing accelerated learning opportunities. Due to the District's consistent use of MAP, PVUSD was able to eliminate state-wide SBAC testing for this school year and still comply with state requirements.

8. Why can't staff receive a rapid COVID test? It seems pointless to wait 2 days. If staff came up positive with no symptoms, they have exposed students and staff for those 2 days. It would make sense for Valencia Labs to have a rapid test done and send staff home right away if tested positive.

School districts are required to provide surveillance testing to their staff working in-person with students while in the purple and red tiers. To ensure that we have all possible mitigation factors in place, PVUSD has continued with surveillance testing even while in the orange tier. As the employees engaging in surveillance testing have no symptoms and the vast majority are fully vaccinated, there is no need to quarantine prior to receiving the test results. We do not use the antigen tests, which are also called the Rapid Test, due to the poor quality of the tests. Therefore, we use the PCR tests. Below is the [data](#) from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the Antigen (Rapid Test) which shows a fairly low false positive rate but a high false negative rate of 60% especially for asymptomatic people who we are testing through surveillance testing.

Specificity: the ability of a test to correctly identify people without the disease.

Symptomatic people: 98.9% = 2% false positive

Asymptomatic people: 98.4 % = 2% false positive

Sensitivity: the ability of a test to correctly identify patients with a disease.

Asymptomatic people getting antigen test: 41.2% = 60% false negatives

Symptomatic people: 80% = 20% false negatives

9. In last week's questions, it stated that 3 ft. social distancing will remain in effect for 2021/22 school year and is now a recommendation only. Currently, my child is only allowed to attend in person 2 days a week due to the class size being over 20 kids due to the 3 ft restriction. How will this work for 5 day a week instruction next year with class sizes over 20 and why can they not attend the 4 days a week now if you will make it work next year with the same restrictions? You have stated it will be a normal school day 5 days a week.

There are some classes, especially in the upper elementary grades, which have exceeded the current size limit to allow for four days a week. Previously, we had measured for six feet physical distancing requirements. We have now measured each classroom individually with the three feet distancing so we

know how many students we can place in each classroom at each site. For the majority of the classrooms, we are able to place up to 22 students in the primary size classrooms, and 25 students in the upper elementary and secondary size classrooms. To account for individual class size differences, we are using the specific measurements for each site's classrooms to determine staffing and additional teachers needed for the 2021-2022 school year.

10. Why is my student, who is opting out of in person, getting 30 minutes less instruction time? I understand that teachers need a lunch break, but now my student is getting even less instruction time because I have decided to opt out. How is this equitable? When I brought this up to my school's principal, they were less than concerned. Very frustrating.

Students who are not attending in-person instruction continue to receive a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction throughout the morning and until 1:10pm or 1:20pm as noted on the graphic below. Therefore, they should not be receiving less instructional time.

1st, 2nd & 3rd Grades	4th & 5th Grades & 6th Grade at Elementary Schools
<p>Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>Distance learning (both synchronous and asynchronous instruction)</p> <p>+ Monday - Friday 12:00pm - 1:10pm</p> <p>Distance learning, asynchronous, continues for students NOT part of in-person instruction on any given day</p> <p>- or -</p> <p>In-person instruction 1:00pm - 2:30pm*</p>	<p>Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p>Distance learning (both synchronous and asynchronous instruction)</p> <p>+ Monday - Friday 12:00pm - 1:20pm</p> <p>Distance learning, asynchronous, continues for students NOT part of in-person instruction on any given day</p> <p>- or -</p> <p>In-person instruction 1:00pm - 2:30pm*</p>