

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive contributions to the community and global society.



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Joint Press Release: PVUSD, PVFT and CSEA PVUSD Begins 2020-21 School Year with TK- 12 Distance Learning

Watsonville, CA, July 14, 2020 – In accordance with current health and safety guidelines, Pajaro Valley Unified School District will begin the 2020-21 school year with Distance Learning for all TK-12 grade students on August 17, 2020. COVID-19 data indicates increasing infection rates, making it clear that the pandemic is not yet under control and returning to class is not safe.

“PVUSD’s contingency plan for reopening schools, created in collaboration with classified and certificated staff and administration, is intentionally and thoughtfully designed to provide flexibility and therefore allows us to fully shift and open with a TK-12 Distance Learning model in this moment. The contingency plan also allows us to return to a hybrid or in-person learning model after the first semester and as soon as public health conditions allow. Distance Learning is the right thing to do to ensure the continued safety of our students, staff and community,” stated Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools.

In the past four months since the pandemic forced school closures, PVUSD, along with PVFT and CSEA, supported our students in the most efficient ways possible: The Food and Nutrition Services Department provided over 1,000,000 meals for our students; All students grades 2 through 12 have access to a Chromebook; We acquired 4,000 hotspots to ensure all have access to digital learning; And the district provided access to academic and social emotional support services. PVFT presented to the District and invited CSEA to advocate for adequate education funding and developed an advocacy kit that was shared with staff and families.

In the weeks ahead, PVUSD will prepare to provide high quality and improved Distance Learning instruction, including daily live instruction. Expanded training will be provided to staff to meet the needs of students. Additionally, we will have training for students so they can maximize online learning. PVUSD will also offer increased resources for parents to support their children while distance learning, including video tutorials. All of our students will continue to receive free meals.

PVFT President, Nelly Vaquera-Boggs, advocated for this shift alongside Superintendent Rodriguez. “Securing the safety of our staff and students is critical and has always been our top priority. Given the current health conditions, Distance Learning is the right option. We know that this will be a challenge for everyone going forward but teachers always rise to the occasion. I have no doubt our teachers will exceed all the added requirements from the State.”

Classified staff, especially site-based, will continue to provide the support our students need remotely. “CSEA staff plays a significant role in student education and Distance Learning. Classroom support staff will participate in training to ensure students’ uninterrupted learning,” stated Leticia Oropeza, CSEA president.

PVUSD is proud of the work students, parents, staff and administration has done to ensure that our students continue their education through this unique time. PVUSD will take this to the Board of Trustees at a Special Meeting on July 29.

Amesti * Ann Soldo * Bradley * Calabasas * Diamond Technology Institute * Freedom * H.A. Hyde * Hall District * Landmark * MacQuiddy * Mar Vista * Mintie White * Ohlone * Radcliff * Rio Del Mar * Starlight * Valencia * Aptos Jr. High * Cesar E. Chavez * E.A. Hall * Lakeview * Pajaro Middle * Rolling Hills * Aptos High * Pajaro Valley High * Watsonville High * Renaissance High * New School * Alianza Charter * Pacific Coast Charter * Watsonville Charter School of the Arts * Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education