



March 19, 2020

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Dear AUHSD Parents and Guardians,

AUHSD educators share the goal of providing high-quality education for each of our students, and we continue with this goal in mind as we, as a community, are faced with unprecedented challenges. The well-being of our students and our community is most important, and the physical and mental health of our students is our priority.

The Educational Services Department oversees the curriculum and instruction implementation for the District and its five schools. On March 13, 2020, the Governing Board acted to close AUHSD schools for the duration of two school weeks and Spring Break. Based on the information coming from local and state agencies, we have reason to believe that the County and State-wide closures will last much longer. The Educational Services Department is therefore shifting from the initial plan to institute distance learning (online) for two weeks to distance learning for a longer school closure period.

The guidance and information from the California Department of Education (CDE) is rapidly changing, and our District and school leaders are constantly adjusting as we navigate the constant stream of information. With the additional information received in the last two days regarding the length of closures, CDE guidelines and expectations related to distance learning and equity, we will be working on additional AUHSD guidelines, expectations and resources for our staff, parents and students. We will provide you with this information and a comprehensive website with resources on Monday, March 23. Thank you for your patience as we navigate this new and constantly changing environment.

In the meantime, our teachers have been asked to complete all 3rd quarter related grading and assignments. Students will receive 3rd quarter grades next week. Distance learning via SchoolLoop and Google Classroom has been initiated. We are in initial phases of implementing online learning and are mainly

testing our distance learning structures and systems. This week, students who did not have access to wireless or laptops at home were able to obtain them from their school. Students also picked up necessary instructional materials. Any student still in need of any instructional materials or technology should contact their site principal.

Teaching online requires a different approach of providing instruction than in a face to face classroom. Unlike colleges who have robust online instruction systems, we are making this change overnight and with additional challenges and barriers unique to K-12 education. Learning online also requires a different approach for our students, so we are currently assessing how long it takes our students to accomplish given tasks and if those tasks are accessible. We are very proud of so many of our teachers who have been able to make the change quickly, and we are supporting those who are in need of support. We are identifying students who are struggling with the online learning and working with our support staff to help them navigate through this new method of learning. We want all of our students to feel successful and understand this is an adjustment that will require support and will take time. We also understand that they are dealing with a lot of anxiety and stress as they adjust to the daily changes in their lives.

Thank you for patience with our team as we continue working on our distance learning curriculum. We will be issuing a plan and more details related to distance learning as it pertains to longer school closure on Monday, March 23, which will include the following topics and more:

- What should online learning look like
- How often will things be posted
- What do assessments and grading look like
- State and College Board assessments (SAT, AP etc)
- Best practices for setting up home environment for online learning
- How to get help if you're struggling

Thank you.

Aida Glimme
Associate Superintendent of Educational Services

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