

Dear NP<sup>3</sup> Community,

July 2, 2020

For all of us this has been a difficult summer as we have managed through the ever changing world of COVID-19. Since our last communication we have received guidance from the CDC, the State Department of Education, Sacramento County Office of Education and Sacramento County Public Health and we have used that guidance to develop our plans for the opening of school on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our priority in planning has been the safety of students and staff; while working with the understanding that we can only mitigate risk, not eliminate it.

Fortunately, because of the facility and number of students, NP<sup>3</sup> Elementary will open with all students returning for daily instruction with modifications. Students will be placed in small grade-level cohorts, use designated entrances, staggered start and end times and a shorter instructional day. The facility allows for physical distancing with students 6 feet apart in classrooms and masks will be worn at all times. The shorter day will allow for a thorough cleaning of all rooms each day. Distance Learning will be offered as an option for families that are not comfortable with their student returning to daily instruction or have medically fragile family in the home. More detailed information from Ms. Dart is included in this email.

The development of the reopening plan for our High School and Middle School was more problematic. Because of changing classes each period, facility constraints and the number of students on site, using all the guidance we have received, we are not able to open with all students returning daily. Middle and High School students will be divided into 2 groups with 50% of the students attending on Monday/Tuesday and 50% on Thursday/Friday. Wednesday will be used for on-line instruction and for the deep cleaning of the campus. We believe this is the best model for mitigating risk and providing a high level of instruction at this time. For families that choose to not have their student on campus or have medically fragile family in the home, Distance Learning will be an option. More detailed information from Mrs. Mori and Ms. Anzelc is included in this email.

A significant issue has arisen regarding bus transportation for Middle and High School students. Because of the restrictions on the number of students permitted on a bus, Natomas Unified will not be able to provide bus services for general education students; they will be able to maintain bus transportation for mandated service. For the past 14 years we have contracted with Natomas Unified and they have been a great partner in maintaining this service. I want to be clear that the discontinuation of transportation is not the fault of Natomas Unified but another reality of COVID -19. We reached out to other providers but they were unable to provide a viable option. We will continue to partner with NUSD and will bring back bus transportation when it is safe to do so.

Staff has developed an NP<sup>3</sup> Guide for Reopening Schools and the link is included here:

<https://natomasunified.org/content/uploads/sites/16/2020/07/NP3-Reopening-Plan-COVID-19-Protocols-1.pdf>

I know we all want to get back to normal but ask that you continue to be safe. Please avoid large gatherings, wear a mask and stay home as much as possible. The number of COVID-19 cases in Sacramento is rising and we all need to do our part to mitigate risk for ourselves and our families. Our reopening can only happen if all of our families and community do their part. I look forward to seeing our students back on campus in 31 days.

Stay well,

Tom Rutten