



Brian Biedermann
Interim Superintendent

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

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October 21, 2020

Dear Stockton Unified Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable populations across the country and in San Joaquin County, and specifically many families in our SUSD community. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who are fighting these injustices, providing support, and care to those most affected. As a leader of our District, I can say that we have been grappling with our unique challenge of desperately wanting to bring back all our students to all our schools, while also facing the public health crisis at hand. We have spent the past several months analyzing when to implement our return to school plans, **with the safety of our students and staff at the center of our decision-making process.** We have been collaborating very closely with our partners at San Joaquin County Public Health (SJCPH) and the San Joaquin County Office of Education to ensure that we facilitate the safest return possible.

We are making strides in our efforts to transition from being fully remote to providing the opportunity for students to continue Distance Learning or return to school full time, and have some important updates below.

Stockton Teachers Association (STA) Update

Pending negotiations, STA will return to work in person on **November 9, 2020**. We will begin to support small group cohorts on **November 16th, 2020**. We are planning for a staggering grade level return following Winter Break on **January 4th, 2021**. Please keep in mind these dates may be subject to change.

Closing Thoughts

We completely understand the frustration many of our parents and students have with how challenging distance learning is, and that for many students this type of learning does not work well. I am hopeful we will have more definitive information soon and hope everyone understands the need to return to school when conditions are as safe as possible.

Across all grades and schools, I can assure you that our District administrators, school leaders, and labor groups are working together to proceed cautiously and thoughtfully, but also with urgency. Additionally, I want to thank our partners at SJCPHS for their support and for prioritizing our Stockton Unified community. We are addressing all issues regarding safety, including ventilation, transportation, cleaning, and more - so that when the time is right, we are ready to move smoothly to the next phase and welcome students back to our schools.

Please continue to follow the recommendations of health experts and wear a mask, maintain physical distancing, avoid large gatherings, and wash your hands frequently. **Together, we can make a difference and get all our kids back to school while also ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and community.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Biedermann', written in a cursive style.

Brian Biedermann
Interim Superintendent