

July 24, 2020

Dear Feather River Academy Families,

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, responded to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19 in March. I am very proud of the way our FRA students, parents, employees, and community leaders handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate and feed our students during the most unusual of circumstances. As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in August 2020. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees. Our desire is, and has been, to return to school as normal (traditional) with enhanced safety and cleaning procedures.

However, on Friday, July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsome made an announcement that all schools in counties that are on the Covid-19 watch list are mandated to open with full distance learning. Sutter County is one of the counties on the watch list. Therefore, Feather River Academy will be opening up the Fall 2020 school year with full distance learning. In order to reopen the school for in-person instruction, Sutter County will have to have been off of the Covid-19 watch list for a period of 14 days.

The staff at FRA understand that this may not be the news you want to hear, but we are committed to providing a rigorous, and supportive educational experience for your students. In order to ensure that we are providing the best educational experience, **FRA will be moving our first day of school to August 19th**. Until then, FRA staff will be training and preparing to utilize new technology, new curriculum and new procedures to prepare a strong program for all of our students. Using the guidance from the Governor as well as the California Department of Education, FRA will focus on the following areas to support your students in distance learning.

1. Distance Learning will continue until it is safe to resume in-person school operations.
2. Rigorous Distance Learning to include:
 - a. Devices and connectivity so that every child can participate in distance learning.
 - b. Daily live interaction with teachers and other students through Google classroom or Zoom for every student.
 - c. Class assignments that are challenging and equivalent to in-person instruction.
 - d. Targeted supports and interventions for English learners, special education students and others as identified.
 - e. A focus on social emotional well-being, counseling services and access to family supports.



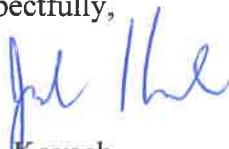
As the school year opens and we move forward with educating our students, we will continue to monitor and update our parents frequently. I encourage our parents to visit our webpage and follow our social media page on Facebook for up to date and accurate information. Our goal is to get back to in-person instruction, so I am presenting an outline of how that will work for FRA. As health restrictions are lifted, and we receive new guidance from the state, we will move from distance learning to a hybrid of in-person/distance learning, and then hopefully to traditional schooling.

1. **Full Distance Learning Plan-** All students will participate in the learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments. *This is how we are opening for the Fall of 2020 school year.*
2. **Social Distancing/Hybrid Plan-** Hybrid would be a combination of distance learning and face-to-face instruction with increased safety and disinfecting, which could be done in a variety of configurations. Students would attend school for a few hours daily, as well as complete assignments at home.
3. **Enhanced Traditional Plan-** We would continue school as normal with enhanced safety precautions in place such as increased hand sanitizer availability, increased frequency of cleaning of high touch areas, limited visitation to campuses, etc., in order to possibly prevent the transition back to a hybrid or full distance learning option.

Our priority is to keep everyone safe while not making life more difficult for our parents. Each family situation is uniquely different. We fully understand your varied concerns about health and safety, distance learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all of the other unexpected consequences of not being in school or being in school in a traditional method.

As we continue the FRA 20-21 planning process, we will keep you updated. Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and employees during these challenging times.

Respectfully,



John Kovach
Principal
Feather River Academy
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