



Lakeside Union School District

14535 Old River Road
Bakersfield, CA 93311
Phone: (661) 836-6658
FAX: (661) 836-8059
www.lakesideusd.org

July 24, 2020

Dear Lakeside Families,

Since the beginning of June, our District Advisory Committee (DAC) on Reopening Schools has been meeting regularly and working diligently to plan and prepare the best possible educational options for our students in the face of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The work of the DAC has focused on the safety of our students and our staff. We thank you for your patience and your input during this challenging period of unpredictable change.

Last week, Governor Newsom provided new guidance to school districts across California that once again caused our District to change course, and delay the implementation of the blended instructional model that was initially planned for proposal to the Board of Trustees. Although your input guided our decisions to implement a plan that would put students into classrooms for in person instruction, those plans are not currently possible. The placement of Kern County onto the State Monitoring List effectively prevents school districts in Kern County from providing in person instruction to our students for the foreseeable future. Distance learning is now our only option for providing instruction as we start the 2020-2021 school year.

At a special board meeting held on Thursday, July 23, 2020, the Lakeside Union School District Board of Trustees unanimously took action to implement a 100% distance learning instructional model to begin the 2020-2021 school year. Distance learning will be in place for the first quarter of the school year. This action is a direct response to Kern County's placement on the State Monitoring List and the significant increase in COVID 19 infection rates in Bakersfield and Kern County.

Beginning the week of August 3, 2020, LUSD Schools will begin deploying Chromebooks and instructional materials to students. This early distribution is being done in order to prepare them for the August 13th start of what will be a very different distance learning experience than what we had last spring. A deployment and distribution schedule has been created that will require students to pick up their instructional materials during specific time blocks in order to adhere to social distancing and appropriate safety measures. Please be on the lookout for scheduling information coming to you soon.

It is extremely important that families continue to monitor their e-mail, text, phone and school websites for updates and other communications. Please check these communications frequently to stay up to date with what is happening. Our websites will be a resource for all notices and communications. The district will make every effort to connect with all students and families to ensure everyone is supported as we approach this unprecedented first day of school.

Our staff and students will be utilizing an online learning management platform called Canvas. Canvas is specifically designed for distance learning environments and is being used by more than 30 school districts in Kern County. Attendance and participation will be required for all students in accordance with California state law and will be monitored in the Canvas platform. As the new school year approaches, our staff and also our families will be receiving valuable training on this new online platform. These live and recorded presentations will enable us to collaborate and prepare to provide a higher caliber of distance learning experience for our students. **The first day of instruction will be Thursday, August 13, 2020.**

It is expected that the 2020-2021 School year will have many obstacles for us to work around and we are determined to persevere. Please continue to show us your patience and cooperation as we maneuver through these challenges, in an effort to provide the best possible learning experience for our students. The Lakeside Union School District has a history of over 79 years of educational excellence in our community. Our small district has overcome many challenges in our past and we are committed to continuing to provide the exceptional instruction we are known for. In addition to strong academic support, we are also committed to the social and emotional wellbeing of our students and staff during these challenging times. Together we will get through this and overcome whatever obstacles we are presented with.

The District will continue to monitor Pandemic conditions throughout the first quarter of the school year and determine if conditions are safe to transition to the blended instructional model for the second quarter. If conditions exist that will allow us to provide in person instruction at that time, it is our hope that we will be able to put our students and staff back into the classroom. Time will tell, and we will hope for the best while continuing to prepare for the worst.

School offices will open on August 3, 2020. All California Department of Public Health and Safety guidelines will be in place for our school sites. Face masks are required, social distancing will be maintained, and access will be limited. Appointments are encouraged. If there is a need to visit a district site to complete school business, please call ahead to make an appointment.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the District Advisory Committee, ***Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in your children's education.***

Take care and be safe,

Ty Bryson
Superintendent