



Raymond-Knowles Union Elementary School District

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Michelle Townsend, Superintendent/Principal

March 20, 2020

Dear RKUESD, Parents, Staff, and Community:

This letter is an update on the latest information in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Based on updated information issued by the Madera County Public Health Department and Governor Newsom's Stay at Home order for all of California issued March 19, 2020, Raymond-Knowles Elementary School is extending school closure through at least April 17, 2020. This school closure extension is to protect our community and help flatten the COVID-19 infection curve. The earliest school would resume is April 20, 2020, after our scheduled spring break. You will continue to be updated as we get closer to this date.

It is important to take the Governor's Stay at Home order seriously in order to slow down the spread of COVID-19. Only go out if you need essential household items or groceries. If you are sick, stay at home and ask your neighbors or friends to go out to pick up what you need. Make sure you are staying socially connected. You can do this through phone calls, emails, Facetime, computer conference calls.

The following are great resources:

<https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health/health-updates/corona-virus>

<https://covid19.ca.gov/>

During the closure, district personnel will:

- **Continue to provide meals**
 - All children in the community ages 0 to 18 can receive a meal.
Location: Raymond-Knowles Elementary School, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **Provide review and enrichment materials to students**
 - Families who chose digital resources as their preferred method of learning will continue receiving emails to both parent/guardian email addresses as well as to their student's email regarding new materials, resources, and assignments
 - Families who chose paper resources will be contacted within the next few days with a pick-up date for new paper materials.
- **Provide support**
 - Teachers will reach out to your students regularly to check-in and offer support through email, phone calls, Zoom meetings, etc.
 - Teachers will be available for consultation via email and phone during school hours. We are working on setting up our school phones to forward phone calls to teachers' personal phones. We will let you know when this is set up.
- **Continue to develop and improve distance learning experiences**
- **Reach out to students who receive counseling services**
 - Miss Gloria will be in contact with these families.

Concerning Special Education, we are considering and will pursue all reasonable options (in line with current Covid-19 health and safety guidelines, and federal, state and local orders) to best serve our students who require specialized instruction and services. Please know that many professionals at the district, county, and state level who have devoted their lives to advocating for students with special needs are working diligently to determine the best way of meeting all of our students' needs.

We understand the challenges associated with teaching your children from home and holding them accountable for learning during these challenging times. We will continue to do all we can to prevent learning loss during the school closure. Please stress with your students the importance of continuing to do their schoolwork daily. All of their teachers are working around the clock to provide engaging lessons and resources for them to keep their minds active. Teachers will be sending out a suggested daily schedule for students to help families maintain normalcy and routine.

Please don't hesitate to call or email your child's teacher if you have academic questions or concerns. District staff is also here to support you and your child. As our community continues to confront the realities of this crisis, we need to support each other. We are all in this together.

Create.Connect.Compete
We are Raymond Tough!
Go Broncos!

Sincerely,
Michelle Townsend