

July 30, 2020

Dear Palmdale School District Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are excited to have you back and are looking forward to a new school year filled with learning and partnership. We know that these uncertain times bring many questions for our families, so we would like to provide you with some information as you plan for the upcoming school year. Please, be sure your site has valid contact information for you. Email and phone numbers are needed to be sure your school and teachers can communicate back and forth with you. If you have not signed up for the Parent Portal, you may also contact your school or visit <https://bit.ly/psdportal> to start the secure setup process.

What can I expect for the first two weeks of school?

The first day of school is Thursday, August 6, 2020, and we will begin the year with distance learning. Ensuring the health and safety of our students and families continues to be a priority for the Palmdale School District. Principals and/or teachers will provide information regarding how to connect online the first day of school by Wednesday, August 5. We encourage you to please call the school office if you are unable to connect with your child's teacher. We understand that our families have unique needs and our goal is to meet those needs so that our students are provided with the access and equity they need to ensure a successful school year. Making connections and building positive relationships with all stakeholders is very important. This year students begin learning in a virtual environment with teachers and classmates they have potentially never met. And for some, in a brand new school system. Preparation for this environment needs to be carefully planned and implemented. In order to successfully fulfill the requirements of SB98 and AB77, we need to ensure all students, teachers, and parents understand how to navigate distance learning and have the resources to be successful.

During the first two weeks of school our teachers and support providers will focus on connecting with their students and families via phone calls, emails, or virtual meetings. Teachers will provide information about daily schedules, materials, and devices while also providing the necessary support. Students will be actively involved in classroom activities that both assess content knowledge and build positive relationships. They will also implement activities that will help us to get to know your student and their learning style, build digital competency and citizenship, create a classroom community of learners, as well as other opportunities that will help us to begin the year by preparing your student for a distance learning educational program. These activities are all important to beginning the year right and ready for success!

What will my student's day look like during distance learning?

Distance learning is different from the remote teaching that was offered in the spring. With the legislation of SB 98 and AB77, many new components have been added.

On a daily basis, students will have live interaction with their teacher, be given daily assignments and receive direct instruction that is aligned to grade level standards, which will be at a quality and intellectual challenge equivalent to in-person instruction. Students will also have the opportunity to contact teachers during office hours for additional support. Teachers will ensure the content aligns with the CA Common Core State Standards and Content Standards, and will provide rigorous lessons utilizing the district-adopted curriculum.

Additionally, from 10:30-12:30 each day, students will have a break from screen time so they may be able to get a lunch on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at their school site. More information about lunch can

be found on our website. Teachers will also hold office hours during part of this time. Your child's teacher will provide information regarding their office hours.

Where do I go for support with technology?

Palmdale School District offers technical assistance to our families! Live technology questions and answers will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays through our YouTube channel. Visit palmdalesd.org. Check the "For Parents" tab then select "**Distance Learning**" for parent resources. You may also go directly to bit.ly/promise-dl. Additionally, technology support staff at your child's school can answer questions to common issues you may encounter while Distance Learning. You can find the contact email or phone number for your school's technical support team under "**Technical Support**". When emailing or leaving a message, be sure to include a good description of the issue you are having as well as your contact information. Support staff will respond within 1 day, Monday-Friday. Principals, Teachers, Parent Community Liaisons and Site Technology Specialists will also be working to assist families as we navigate Distance Learning through our technology tools.

We encourage you to visit the PSD website frequently for valuable resources. The Distance Learning site (bit.ly/promise-dl) provides information such as; Online Learning Help for ClassLink, Google Classroom, ZOOM meetings, how to translate YouTube videos to Spanish, ParentSquare, how to request a device, and information about internet services.

Will parent group meetings be held?

Parent engagement and collaboration is more important than ever as we partner with you to provide your student with the best educational experience. Therefore, we will continue with our regularly scheduled meetings virtually. Monthly District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) schedules and agendas will be posted to our district and school websites. Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), African American Parent Advisory Council (AAPAC), Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and Parent Ambassadors will also continue virtually. Your voice matters and we are here to support you and your student.

Will parent training and support be provided?

School administrators will be holding virtual parent meetings on a variety of topics. Topics may include, but are not limited to Virtual Back to School Night, Math and English Language Arts Family Nights, and workshops. The district office will be providing DELAC parent workshops, English Language Development workshops, Mental Health workshops, Immigrant workshops, Technology workshops, Parent Leadership workshops, Adult ESL classes, and GED classes.

We are excited about the 2020-2021 school year! Yes, there will be challenges but building on your student's strengths and working as a team, home and school together; we will make this an excellent year!