

March 31, 2020

Greetings Everyone,

This month has been so full, it has felt like a year worth of energy and time. March 2020 is one that we will remember for years to come.

First, thank you to everyone for all your efforts. No task is too small, nor too great to not thank you. It doesn't matter if it is cutting the grass, documenting a SST meeting, filing documents, counseling a student or employee, sanitizing a desk, preparing meals, formatting a Chromebook, changing the oil in the vans, teaching a lesson, hosting a training online or completing payroll. From one end to the other, each one of you is essential to our organization. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**Highlights of the Month:**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> PD Day.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> We offered a tour of the STEM Building to community leaders and placed the "top steel" on the North side of the building. (It will soon be covered up)
- March 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> It was a whirlwind of school emergencies and evolving orders from the State
- March 16<sup>th</sup>, We issued our Campus Closures notice for the Coronavirus response
- March 17<sup>th</sup> No students at schools started meal service on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- March 18-20 Started distributing Chromebooks and teacher continued preparing Google Classrooms
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, We started distance learning and opened our CUHS preschool for ECRMC hospital workers

On March, 2<sup>nd</sup>, I shared a message for our Teachers. I said, that teachers are the center of our district. All services and activities are designed to guide and support the activities in the classroom. I have tried to put into my own words how I feel about our efforts and I come up short. Here are some statements of others:

**From a Facebook Post** I will paraphrase because I can't find the post: '...in just a matter of days, not weeks or month schools, moved to online and distance learning. It was teachers, administrators and school staff, not the State, not the US Department of Ed, or a publisher that made this happen. No committee, not a lengthy approved plan, just quick meaningful actions by local educators responded.'

**From a teacher who survived Hurricane Katrina:** "...Katrina taught the teachers on the Gulf Coast that an interrupted year is not the end of the world, it's okay if you don't get to cover all the content. It's okay if your grades are inflated because you can't test as normal. It's okay if your students are not able to complete the coursework as assigned. We worried that missing part of the year would have lasting effects, but it didn't. Our Katrina kids are doctors, lawyers, teachers, hairdressers, nurses, business owner, engineers, you name it they are doing it all over the world. Don't sweat what is probably ultimately insignificant, but embrace the opportunity to stay commenced with your students in order to build relationships and to reinforce a sense of normalcy for them. Developing skills for the next level of success takes many forms, so don't worry, you've got this!"

**From Peyton Anderson:** "School is NOT closed for the year. The Building is. If you listen closely you can hear the hum of hard working teachers, administrators, and support staff preparing to

save the day in ways and means never seen before. Yes, we are brokenhearted, but these broken hearts will lead.”

We have all seen the memes on Facebook by parents who have a new appreciation for teachers. It is very true. The nation has gained a new found respect for what we do. The community recognizes the importance of our schools. I add my words of confidence, appreciation and support for all your efforts.

#### **CDE FAQ**

We often have questions about what is going on at the state level and where to turn for guidance. The CDE has developed some helpful information:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/cdecovidfaq2019.asp> Check out this link and the other links from this source.

This information is helpful and answers some questions. It also is clear that there is still more to determine and some of these decisions will be made locally.

#### **CUHSD Resources for Students and Teachers**

Our team has developed tremendous set of recourses for both students and teachers. [Online Learning Support webpage](#)

#### **Where do we go from here?**

As of today, many districts around California and other states have already announced extended campus closures or that they will not return for the 2019-2020 year. We are monitoring this carefully and we will not come back as long as there are local or state orders to “Stay at Home” in place. More information to come in the next few weeks.

So I will finish where I started: Thank you to each and every one of your for all your efforts!

Sincerely,

Ward H. Andrus Ed.D.

Superintendent

[Central Union High School District](#)

351 Ross Ave.

El Centro, CA 92243

(760) 336-4500

*“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication” Leonardo Da Vinci*