



RESCUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating for the Future Together"
2390 Bass Lake Road • Rescue, CA 95672
(530) 677-4461 • FAX (530) 677-0719
www.rescueusd.org

April 13, 2020

Dear RUSD Families,

We remain committed to providing updates to you so that you are informed about any new developments. We also want to reiterate to you that we know this is a very stressful time for our families. There are many unknowns and uncertainties, and it is hard to suddenly have to navigate work from home or work away from home, home life, AND homeschool for your children. We feel that angst right alongside you, although we have been so very impressed and proud of our students, families, teachers, and staff for jumping right in and doing what it takes to allow education to continue. Does it look the same? NO. Does it feel the same? NO. Do we know exactly what to do? NO. We believe we are going to make it through this time together and come out stronger on the other side, because we are working together and collaborating. Remember to give yourselves grace! It is going to be OKAY!

We wanted to provide you with an updated FAQ sheet. Let us know if you have additional questions!

RUSD Distance Learning Program:

Our Distance Learning Plan will be in place from 4/13/20 until the end of the year. Important details are as follows:

	Elementary Level	Middle School Grades
Student Contact	At a minimum, each student will receive a weekly live connection with his/her teacher as a class. This connection is intended to maintain class relationships, address social emotional needs, and provide any necessary general feedback to the group. These connections could be via Zoom, phone conferences, See Saw, Flip Grid, or any other platform accessible to students.	At a minimum, each student in the middle school shall receive a weekly live check in from a teacher. Due to the high numbers of student contact per teacher, it is suggested that the weekly check ins be evenly distributed among all teachers in a given period. This connection is intended to maintain class relationships, address social emotional needs, and provide any necessary general feedback to the group. Connections may be made via Zoom, phone conferences, Flip Grid, Google Meet, or other platforms accessible to students.
Daily Lesson Guidance	Each day, students will receive guidance from the teacher regarding their work for that day. The guidance may come from a video recorded message, an email, live Zoom meeting, JupiterGrades/Juno, or other platforms accessible to students.	Same as Elementary Level
Weekly Overview of Lessons	Students will receive a basic outline of lessons for the week, on Mondays, or from Friday to Friday. This will allow	Same as Elementary Level

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	students and families some flexibility when completing activities and assignments. Weekly sets of lesson plans will be shared with the Resource teacher for consultation on accommodations and/or modifications.	
Maximum Daily Student Work Times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TK – 2: ELA, Writing, Math (1-2 hours) • 3-5: ELA, Writing, Math (2-2.30 hours) • Elementary: Optional or occasional Science or History • 30 minutes of independent reading each day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8: Each teacher provides around 25-30 minutes of work each day (2-3 hours Academic Work) • 30 minutes of independent reading
Feedback/Grading	Students will receive written or verbal constructive feedback on assignments that are “turned in”, electronically or otherwise. However, not all students have equitable support in distance learning. Some students may not have parents at home who can assist with assignment completion, while others may be required to care for younger siblings while parents work. Therefore, students will not be academically penalized for inequalities related to supports. Traditional letter grades will not be used at this time. Teachers can provide credit to a student in addition to written or verbal feedback, Credit/”No Mark” will be used.	Same as Elementary Level
Communication	Teachers will be available for 3 hours per day to respond to questions from parents and students. These “office hours” may be divided into smaller segments and teachers will share the availability with parents and students.	Same as Elementary Level

Will my child’s assignments be graded?

As noted in the chart above, your child’s teachers will be assessing the work your child does and providing feedback to help reinforce learning and build proficiency. We understand that not every child has the same supports available during these unprecedented school closures. Some students may have limited access to the Internet while others may have parents who work in health care, law enforcement, or some other field that keeps them from being home with their children as often. For these reasons, we will not be academically penalizing any student who does not, or cannot, participate in these lessons. However, it is strongly encouraged that your child take full advantage of the lessons our teachers are preparing and contact their teacher immediately if they require any assistance. We are here to help. We know that students do better with structure and routine. Helping your child maintain a routine of school work each day will help them navigate this situation more successfully.



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Is it mandatory that my child complete the work provided?

As mentioned above, no student will be academically penalized if they do not, or cannot, participate in the lessons provided while schools are closed. We understand that some students' unique circumstances may make it more difficult to master content through a distance learning program. However, our teachers and principals remain committed to supporting students through these unprecedented school closures and the work provided is strongly encouraged. If your child is struggling, please contact your child's teacher or principal so that we can work to support them.

Will my child receive a Report Card at the end of the year?

Because so much of the learning and work completion must now happen away from our classrooms, and because we will no longer be generating overall grades or standards based scores, we have made the decision to suspend the full use of the report cards for this last trimester. We will still provide report card comments to students as appropriate, but the letter grades and standards-based portions of the report cards will not be used this trimester. We know this is a big shift - a really big shift. However, given the necessary changes to our grading system and the fact that children are now completing all work at home, traditional grades on a report card would not serve as a reliable indicator of a child's ability or proficiency.

How will my child be placed in Advanced Placement Courses?

With all that is going on, we will still be making decisions regarding which students should be enrolled in advanced placement math courses for next year. Typically, we use letter grades, standardized test scores, end of year finals, etc. to help inform our decisions. In our current situation, those measures would be unavailable or unreliable. Therefore, we will use existing academic data from Trimesters 1 and 2, along with teacher recommendations, to build these classes. If you have questions about this, please contact your child's principal.

What about Special End of the Year Activities?

We know that annual special events are very important and meaningful, and we join you in wanting to figure out how to make some of these special activities happen for our students. We are still waiting to see what options might be available for end of the year activities such as promotion events, awards ceremonies, the return of student materials, etc. Much of this will depend on when social distancing requirements are lifted and we are able to come back together. We do want you to know that we **are** exploring alternative options for things like promotion ceremonies, and as we know more we will share this information with all of our families.

How will Special Education students be served?

As per the United State Department of Education Office for Special Education fact sheet from March 16, 2020, Students with disabilities will receive a free and appropriate education program as required by state and federal law. As with general education classes, special education services may look different, and may be provided through varied options. Some of these options could include distance instruction, online instruction, the telephone, instructional packets, projects, and written assignments. Our special education

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teachers will reach out individually to the students on their caseloads to create plans for individual students.

How long will the breakfast and lunch meals be provided?

Our plan is to provide the meals Monday through Friday, including during spring break, until school opens again. The only reason the meal service would stop is if the government directs it to close due to safety. We will also be providing a box of food to families each Thursday. These boxes of food are from the El Dorado County Food Bank and it is in addition to the daily meals.

I'm not receiving emergency alerts or email updates from the District. What can I do?

Please look regularly at our district web page and our district Facebook page for the most current information and updates.

May I come to school or bring my children to play on the playground or ride bikes, etc?

No. Our campuses are now closed to the public unless you have made arrangements with district administration or the site principal to go on a campus. The exception is for picking up meals at Pleasant Grove Middle School and Green Valley School.

Again, we thank you for all for your patience and support as we navigate this together. We appreciate you and value your contributions to our district. Let us know how we can better support you and your family. We do look forward to welcoming your children back to our campuses! We miss them.

Most sincerely,

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Dave Scroggins, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction dscroggins@my.rescueusd.org

Sean Martin, Assistant Superintendent Business Services smartin@my.rescueusd.org