



## 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](http://www.rescueusd.org)

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July 11, 2020

Dear RUSD Families,

We know this is a very difficult time. We have three short weeks until school starts and many decisions need to be made. We also know you need to make the very best decision for your family. We understand and our hearts go out to you.

We have been receiving many emails and phone calls with questions about our programs for the 2020-2021 school year. This communication is meant to give additional information to help you with your decision making. With that said, please know that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and requirements and mandates are revised by the Governor and El Dorado County Public Health, we have a responsibility to be prepared to change our direction too, so that we can provide the very best education possible for all of our students no matter what. Our teachers will continue providing a rigorous, standards-based, cohesive program with daily live instruction, grades, and assessments no matter if your child is in the traditional model, the Frontier Academy, or should we be mandated to move into a full distance learning model.

Many questions have been asked regarding our traditional model and the health and safety protocols that are being put in place. The following are some of the more important ones:

- Because we cannot accommodate 6 feet of social distancing between all desks, we will have all desks facing the same way. Desks and tables will be as spread apart as possible, up to 3 feet in most cases. Teachers are removing extra furniture and materials that are not needed in order to create more space.
- At this point in time Governor Newsom has mandated the wearing of face coverings inside where social distancing cannot occur. We will not have students wear them outside, during recess, lunch, PE, or when teachers conduct class outside. The longest amount of time a student would have to wear a face covering at a time would be about 100 minutes without a break. At this point it is acceptable for students and staff to wear face shields, which may be a more comfortable alternative. If a student has a medical condition that makes wearing a face covering difficult, a parent needs to bring in a doctor's note excusing the child from wearing one.
- We have upgraded our filters in rooms to capture a great percentage of particulates. They will be changed twice as often.
- Our maintenance department has built additional hand washing stations that accommodate 12 students at a time, all socially distanced for each campus.
- Additional hand sanitizing stations will be provided at each site.
- Students will be asked to bring water bottles from home to drink from. They can refill them from the classroom sinks if need be.
- Common areas and high traffic areas such as door knobs, faucets, toilets, handrails, etc., will be cleaned midday and in the evening.

Cheryl Olson, Superintendent

Board of Trustees

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- Cohorts of students will play together at recess and each cohort will have their own set of playground equipment to use, to be disinfected after each recess. This is the same procedure for PE equipment also.
- Students will not dress out for PE this year. They will bring appropriate shoes to wear for PE.
- Students will be socially distanced during lunch.
- We have ordered some clear barriers to use between students in small group instruction areas.
- We are focusing our custodians on deep cleaning and disinfecting.
- Our entire staff will be trained in disinfecting techniques and given appropriate nontoxic disinfectant spray to use in their classes between classes at the middle school level and in elementary classrooms as well.
- At this point in time, El Dorado County Public Health is stating that should a child or adult be diagnosed with COVID-19, that person and their immediate family would be quarantined for 14 days. EDCPH would be responsible for the tracking process, communicating with the families from the class/school, and mandating the quarantine. The school would immediately completely disinfect the classroom and school.
- If a child or adult exhibits symptoms of illness they would be taken immediately to the health office and screened. Parents would be called and expected to pick their child up and to take them to the doctor for testing. EDCPH would be contacted and they would determine the course of action from there.
- Every family will receive a hard copy of our COVID Compact with a list of expectations to sign.
- Parent volunteers will not be able to be used during this time.
- Large assemblies will not occur, nor field trips taken.
- Parents will need to wear a face covering if they come onto campus.

These are just a few of the procedures we are putting in place. The specific plans for each site will be sent to parents on Wednesday after the Board meeting Tuesday night. These plans have been developed by site administrators, teachers, staff, and parents. The umbrella protocols for all plans were developed by the Rescue Union School District Reopening Committee that has met weekly this summer.

Until we are mandated or recommended otherwise, our Board of Trustees has determined that we will continue moving forward with our traditional model because we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that our students are best served by being able to physically be in school with their teacher. That is where the magic happens. Should a family feel uncomfortable having their children return full time, we are offering the Frontier Virtual Academy option. Please see the attached FAQ sheet for more information regarding that program. Additionally, we invite you to go to our district webpage. On the front page there is a large rectangular button that says Frontier Academy. If you click on it, it will take you to see sample schedules and other pertinent information.



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Lastly, as you know, and as we have stated, we continue to experience changes in the COVID-19 situation. Due to these ever-changing developments, the District is currently working on the instructional model that would be utilized for distance learning in the event schools are mandated to close by either El Dorado County Public Health or the Governor. Fortunately, since we will already have students and teachers using the Fuel Ed distance learning platform, and also due to additional money we are receiving for COVID-related expenses that has to be spent by December 2020, we will be in position to pivot quickly to utilize the same platform for the rest of our students previously in the traditional or possible hybrid model. This platform will provide the backbone, but teachers will also provide daily live instruction in conjunction with Fuel Ed, student work will be graded, and assessments will be given for progress monitoring purposes along the way. We know we had originally said we would not use the same platform as the Frontier program if we had to close, but we are grateful that we will now be able to use it to a certain extent to give our students consistency and give our parents one main place to access lessons and materials should it be necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We have tried to answer the many questions received via email, text, and phone. We also hope this communication helps. Our goal is to meet the needs of our teachers, staff, and families. We will keep you informed every step of the way. Thank you for your continued partnership with us. We appreciate our teachers, staff, and families and look forward to seeing you soon.

Most sincerely,

Cheryl Olson, Superintendent

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