



West Sacramento Teachers Association

March 27, 2020



Good Morning, please keep these points in mind as we move forward regarding distance learning.

WSTA and WUSD will begin negotiating working conditions and parameters on what it is and isn't this upcoming week for teachers in anticipation of a slow rollout.

Feel free to start researching enrichment, engagement, and review activities. Remember, per Governor Newsom, we need to provide learning opportunities. We cannot require our students to complete these activities.

Please keep in mind that the district is still in the process of addressing the technology inequity issue among our students. They are currently identifying the students who do not have access to devices and/or the internet. They started this process with our high school population. Next will be our 6-8 population, then our K-5 students. We have been told that the Chromebooks have been restored to their default settings. This means that any extensions have been removed. Many of our students with special needs will need this addressed to ensure equity.

We gave packets out last week. This provides learning opportunities for the time period of our current closure. We need to make sure the technology inequity, IEP accommodations/modification, 504 accommodations, and ELD accommodations are addressed before we start our distance learning after spring break.

We realize that many teachers are eager to start distance learning. At this time, we cannot reach all of our students for the reasons mentioned above. This is a good time to initiate connections with your students. This can be via email, Google Classroom, or any other means you feel comfortable using. We caution against video chats, due to the uncertainty of security and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, as well as the use of your private social media accounts. Right now, their world has been turned upside down, as has ours. Families may be experiencing hardships due to loss of jobs, illness, social isolation, limited access to food and supplies, homelessness, unstable and/or abusive home life, just to name a few. Some of us are experiencing these hardships as well.

Reaching out to see how they are doing and just connecting on a personal level will mean the world to them. As we all know, social-emotional learning and support are vital for our students and ourselves.

Please reach out to your colleagues to support each other. This is an unprecedented historical event. The minute by minute changes and uncertainty of what may come is causing trauma in everyone's lives. There is no need to reinvent the wheel during this process. Through collaboration, we can pool resources and ideas to better serve our students and each other.

WSTA is working hard to support and protect the rights of our bargaining unit members. This will allow us to support our students and their families with what they need during this crisis.

Be well and know we are here for all of you.

WSTA Bargaining Team

Monica Reeves - SG • Gwen Branin - RB • Tessa Heavlin-Martinez - BWI • Annie Chism - RB
Jennifer Schumacher - RCHS • Alan Frantz - RCHS • Kei Swensen - CTA primary contact staff