

Modoc Joint Unified School District
906 W. 4th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-7201 530-233-4362 (FAX)
www.modoc.k12.ca.us

Greetings Families,

MJUSD will be continuing down the path towards face to face instruction beginning as scheduled on August 19, 2020. The information I have for you is what I know to be true today. Things change constantly in this COVID-19 world. Our response to the change will continue to be the same: we will consult with our school nurse, local public health officials, and state guidelines to determine the best course of action for our students and our community.

Things will look different next year. There will be daily temperature checks for students and staff. Staff will be staying home if they are ill which means there will be more substitute teachers. Parents, you absolutely cannot send your child to school if they are ill. I realize this is different from a year ago when we were fighting the chronic absenteeism rate, but the game has changed. If a child becomes sick at school, they will be isolated from the rest of the students and staff and a parent or emergency contact must be available to pick up the child. Hygiene is more important now than it ever has been and we will aggressively be addressing student cleanliness. Parents please make sure all contacts are accurate when you update your child's information in August.

MJUSD realizes that we have students with verified health issues that will keep them from attending school. We will be providing a distance learning option for these children. What that looks like will depend on the amount of students who opt in to this program. If you would like for your child to utilize the distance learning option, please fill out the survey at this link <https://bit.ly/2BWFZXX> . ONLY COMPLETE THIS SURVEY IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO DO DISTANCE LEARNING. Based on current data, we are not anticipating a large number of students and the grade levels of the students will determine what the program looks like.

The classroom for the 2020-21 school year will look very similar to last year. I want to reiterate we are working with our local public health officials frequently. That being said, questions will arise as this is incredibly fluid, and we don't have the answers to all of our current questions. We don't have a firm answer on athletics, though the desire of the northern section schools is to play as normal. We have transportation issues we need to resolve. The more time that passes the more we learn which allows us to move forward.

This has been a very confusing and frustrating time for all of us due to the constantly changing information that has been issued nationally and internationally. I encourage you to do your own research as unfortunately this virus has become politicized. The virus is real, don't get me

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wrong, but data shows that when compared to COVID-19, children ages 5-14 are 21 times more likely to die in an accident and 7 times more likely to die of influenza. We will be posting more information on our Facebook page and website throughout the summer in an effort to keep you informed with the current situation.

Schools have never been completely safe. We do our best to make them as safe as we possibly can and will continue to do so. We have hired a day utility worker to help keep the schools clean. We have added more security features this summer that have gone mostly unnoticed. But kids will be kids and we cannot expect them to be perfect in this imperfect world. We as adults can work together to mitigate the risks not only for COVID-19, but school in general. Communication is the best tool we have. The next is hygiene. Cleanliness will not only keep us healthy, but it also benefits those around us. Common sense will also play into this. I know most of us were raised that you go to work until you can't get out of bed. That has to change. Not feeling right means staying home.

Lastly, from a pure probability standpoint COVID-19 will enter our community and our schools at some point. We will be prepared for when that day comes. As the summer progresses, we will be releasing more specifics on how things will be changing. As I stated earlier, school will look different in some ways, but it is the desire of the Board and myself to make school as normal as possible. Overall, we will continue to provide a quality education for all of our students. I appreciate your patience in working with us as we adapt to this new environment.

Continue to enjoy summer and stay tuned to the district website and Facebook page for updates. Kids, we cannot wait to see you!

Sincerely,
Tom O'Malley
Superintendent
Modoc Joint Unified School District