



Upland Unified School District
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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Communication #10

April 13, 2020

Dear Upland Community:

From our Upland Unified School District family to yours, we hope you are doing well and staying safe. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged our community and others around the globe in ways we could not have fathomed just a few weeks back. It was, in fact, one month ago today that we and districts across San Bernardino County made the difficult but necessary decision to close our school campuses to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, families and employees.

While it is still too soon to predict when normalcy will return, what we've experienced together these past several weeks can serve as an inspiration for years, if not decades, to come – that no matter what the hardship, our ability to lean on and support one another is perhaps our greatest strength.

We've seen that day after day – a growing sense of community that's bringing people together, even as we respect our social distancing.

You've probably driven past one of our schools on a day when we're distributing more than 2,000 free lunches to students and young people in need. Food insecurity is a real problem in many of our homes and neighborhoods, especially now with so many wage earners having lost their jobs. Our dedicated staff has stepped up in a big way to try to ensure that no child goes hungry. I would like to thank our Nutrition Services Director Ksenia Glenn, her extraordinary team and the principals and staffs at each of our schools for making this program such a warm success. I would also like to thank the countless community members who have offered their support, such as the passerby recently who was so taken by what he saw that he came back with gift cards for the support team at one of our distribution points.

There are so many other inspiring examples that directly impact the work we do as a district – the maintenance teams who are working tirelessly to sanitize and clean all of our facilities as we await a return to school; the teachers and parents who have dedicated themselves to ensuring that no student suffers academically as a result of distance learning; the students themselves who have put distractions aside to do their work and to remotely support one another.

This week, Health Occupations instructor Jessica Garcia received a heartwarming message from one of those students, Isela Cordero, who is working at a health care facility for senior citizens:

I think I saved a life today! One of the patients was complaining of not feeling well and being very tired. The nurses said they were fine, but usually this patient is very ecstatic. I grabbed them some water and as I was approaching them, I noticed half of their face was droopy! I remembered you showing a video to the class about strokes. So I had them lift up both arms. They were very weak and unbalanced. I immediately called a code and let my administrator know. The nurses took care of the rest and an ambulance came.

Hers is one of countless incredible stories from which we can all draw inspiration. To our teachers, staff and administrative team, to our Board of Trustees, our parents, students and community, thank you so very much. Your efforts, your commitment, your support of one another gives us all even greater confidence in our ability to come out of the pandemic stronger than ever.

You – we – are truly UPLAND STRONG!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelly

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Nancy Kelly, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Upland Unified School District

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Every Single Student...

Every Single Day