



Upland Unified School District  
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## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Communication #16

June 2, 2020

Dear Upland Unified School District Parents and Families:

As we approach the end of this challenging and unprecedented school year, I know you've got plenty of questions about the status of the 2020-2021 academic year. The simple answer is that we don't know yet. Even as many restaurants, stores and businesses are beginning to reopen – under certain conditions and limitations – COVID-19 remains a global health crisis that has upended our world and forced every institution, including public schools, to evaluate and re-evaluate how it will proceed moving forward.

In Upland Unified, we are engaging administrators, principals, teachers and families to determine the most appropriate – and safest – path ahead. We are closely monitoring information and guidance from the governor, the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, the California Department of Education and others, and are discussing and strategizing a variety of options for the fall.

It is somewhat fortunate that our school calendar runs later than some of our neighboring districts, which give us some additional time to weigh our options and make the best decision on behalf of our students, families and staff.

Our preference, of course, would be a complete return to normal school operations. At this point, it is too early to tell if normal operations are a reasonable option given that even those businesses that have reopened are doing so in a very different way. Social distancing, masks and protective shields might work in a restaurant or supermarket, but presumably would require an even higher level of sophistication and implementation in a classroom of young students. We are looking closely at how such safety precautions would work, recognizing too, that the status of the virus could change at any point and require a different approach.

Continuing distance learning is another option as we head toward the 2020-2021 school year. I say this fully aware of the challenges that learning from home presents – for students and for families. At the same time, some families have asked that their students remain at home to minimize the risk of infection.

One final option under consideration is a hybrid of normal school operations and distance learning, which would allow us to stagger the number of students we have on campus at any one time.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through the complexities of these options, and we will keep you informed with any new information.

Families, we will hold three virtual forums next week to get your input regarding the opening of school. We will also send out an additional survey about your specific preferences. There will be more information to follow on this soon.

On a personal note, I would like to express that this is a troubling time for our nation. One thing is for sure, the Upland Unified School District serves a wonderfully diverse community, and our core values are built around equity, inclusion, compassion and respect. We must remain firm in our resolve to ensure that every student has the opportunity for academic and social advancement. Let's focus on being a model for those around us. Continue to be kind to one another.

Thank you for supporting us. More important, thank you for providing our students – your children – with the guidance they need to navigate an increasingly complicated world.

Be well and stay safe. We are UPLAND STRONG.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Kelly

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**Every Single Student...**  
**Every Single Day**