



SIERRA SANDS Unified School District

District Communication 4/21/21

April 21, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are aware, we opened all our schools to in-person instruction, starting with elementary schools on April 5, high schools on April 8, and middle schools on April 12. Although I am not surprised by our success, I am grateful to all staff, students, and parents for the smooth and successful transition. Almost 3,000, out of our total of approximately 4,900 students, are back to learning in person. All of us in Sierra Sands are pleased to be able to serve families through the remainder of the year, based on their choice for in-person or online instruction.

I want to share some additional planning and excitement with you:

1. Graduation/Promotion Planning - On April 13, Kern County moved into the orange color risk tier (for more information on California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>). Our middle and high schools are busy planning an in-person ceremony that will allow for a much closer-to-normal experience. This is exciting! Parents of 8th and 12th graders, you will hear more on specifics from your school principal in the near future.
2. Summer Learning Programs - The state has provided school districts with additional one-time funding, to be used for "extended learning." Our first extended learning opportunity will begin in June, with a summer learning program option for all grade levels, Tk-12, prioritized by need. Stay tuned for registration information.
3. Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) - Every three years we are required to develop a plan in consultation with stakeholders (staff, parents, students, and community) to ensure we are meeting the needs of students, especially those who are vulnerable and experience barriers to learning. A survey will be shared with you to solicit your input and feedback into the plan's development. I hope you will take a few minutes and complete that survey for us.

All of us in Sierra Sands are excited about all the recent developments in our schools. Our sports, music, and extra-curricular activities programs are finishing strong and students are highly engaged with their peers. Our teachers and staff are extremely pleased to serve our families - it is such a delight to have so many students back on our campuses!

Sincerely,
Dave Ostash
Superintendent