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Superintendent

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Dear Novato Community,

Yesterday California Governor Gavin Newsom said he believed schools will more than likely remain closed until summer break. I am disappointed that Governor Newsom chose to include this statement in his press conference yesterday. I was in a follow up virtual meeting with the California Department of Education this morning and in that meeting they walked back the Governor's statements.

As of today, the Novato Unified School District will continue our plan of remote learning through April 3, 2020, with spring break following April 6-10, 2020. We continue to work closely with Marin's Superintendent of Schools, Mary Jane Burke, all other Marin County superintendents and Dr. Matt Willis from Marin County's Public Health Officer. Their strong and consistent leadership is greatly appreciated and has helped us to make informed, thoughtful, and timely decisions. If this decision is left to us within Marin County, we will make it when we have sufficient information. As we have through past challenges, we will make it together acknowledging that each of our communities has its own unique needs.

While we are unclear of the duration of our suspension of classroom learning, we know that our plan will evolve and improve. Each morning, we are meeting to evaluate the many great strengths and areas for improvement of our initial program launch. We can all be proud of NUSD's teachers and leaders who have really stepped up. Without exception, *everyone* has leaned into this challenge. They have worked diligently to achieve our District mission to, "Engage, inspire and empower all students, in a rapidly changing world, to realize their life goals." Each teacher is taking risks and finding success. Should we need to continue with distance learning after spring break, we will use our learnings to improve our already strong delivery model to better meet student needs.

Currently, we're working on ensuring our families without internet access have connectivity and meeting the needs of our special education students through remote learning. These are challenges we take seriously and are doing all we can to meet every student's individual needs.

As you know, school is not just about learning. This week our Food and Nutritional Services has worked hard to serve our children. On Monday they served 265 meals and today they served 650. Everyone here at Novato Unified is pulling together to meet the needs of all our children. We appreciate all that you are doing and your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Kris Cosca

Engage. Inspire. Empower.