

Update: March 26, 2020

Good morning. We wanted to send a quick update regarding the District's expectations for certificated staff for distance learning, plus a couple of other items.

We believe that tomorrow everyone will receive the District's plan for distance learning. It is important that you remember that no plan is going to be perfect. The education system is in the midst of an unprecedented restructuring because of the school closings, and this is something that almost no one was prepared to do. CVTA has been working closely with Ed Services on this plan, and the one you will receive tomorrow has been edited several times based on our recommendations in order to best meet the needs of our students and our members. CVTA is also in nearly constant communication with CTA in order to ensure everything is being handled as best we can.

Will there still be concerns? Of course. This is all new, and we will need to be patient as we try out this new method of reaching our students. The District's expectation is that you will contact your site administration when you have questions and concerns. **This is a good time to make sure you can contact your administration either through email or by cell phone.** While CVTA is always happy to answer questions, your administration will be able to adjust things and help you with your requests and needs as it pertains to distance learning. Please feel free to cc me on communications with your administration in order to keep CVTA informed of the concerns.

When providing distance learning, we cannot make anything mandatory for our students, nor can we use any of it for grades. All we can do right now is provide opportunities for learning and enrichment, and provide feedback to our students. Most importantly we need to remember that not all of our students will be able to access online resources, and some of them may not have a home situation right now that is conducive to learning. Our students mostly need to hear from their teachers and know that we are thinking about them and are available to them as needed.

In other contractual news, CVTA is still working with the District on issues as they arise. Posting of vacancies on 4/1/2020 should still occur as expected, and movement within the sites should have already been discussed with each of you. This would pertain to any site vacancies due to known retirements, resignations, dual language beginning at your site, or filling positions that were filled after the first day of school this year. All of that should have happened prior to the 4/1 posting. Contact your administration if you never heard anything.

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We've also discussed what will happen with evaluations. It is possible that for some of you, the process will need to be restarted next school year. If your observations were not completed, or you weren't given the time to make improvements if needed, you will need to start over next year. If all of your observations were completed and nothing was of concern, your principal may be able to complete the final summative process virtually. Again, contact your administration if you have questions about where you are in the evaluation process.

Some precautions to consider while you are home and preparing for distance learning (repeated):

- You can still be disciplined for unprofessional conduct.
- Be aware of what you are posting on social media. Please don't post that you are bored or that you are getting paid to stay home. Is everything in the photos you post appropriate? Be aware of activities you share, what's in the background, etc.
- If you are communicating with your students through any sort of video conferencing, always make sure you are never with just one student, the same as we practice in our classrooms.
- Remember during your work hours the District should be able to reach you either by email or by phone as needed.
- Use caution if you are assigning work, as some of your students may not have access and/or would need modifications, and you may be creating inequity amongst your students.

Finally, if you want to record a quick video sending a positive message to our students, send it to Rebecca Kay at cvtarebecca@gmail.com. We will post it on our Facebook page for the students!

Please reach out if CVTA can help you with anything, and be safe.

Sincerely,

Carissa Carrera

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