

March 23, 2020

Good morning. I hope each of you continues to stay healthy, and you are abiding by the safety guidelines. This is such a confusing and stressful situation for everyone. It is difficult to plan for the days ahead, but do know that CVTA has been working with CVUSD and CTA to figure out the best way to handle this, for now. We believe there is a conference call today for all superintendents with more guidelines for distance learning and reaching all students. Hopefully after that our District will be better prepared to move forward with what we as educators need to do.

The learning packets that were given to students were meant to last for two weeks. That means something may need to be prepared for beyond those two weeks. The District is working on this. Many of you have already been in contact with your students, checking in on them or offering support as needed with the packets or additional learning opportunities. The District has a plan for us to begin distance learning, but there are several details needing to be refined.

We know they will want us to do some online professional development. They will want us to prepare for some sort of instruction with our students. Because of the difficulties presented with connectivity (both for students and for some of our members), and meeting the needs of students with IEPs or 504s, it is taking longer than is comfortable for many. Please hang in there and know that the health and safety for our students and our families is most important right now, and the learning will come when we are best prepared to do so.

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

- 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. We have not yet been asked to assign any work or provide any lessons.

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There are a lot of resources out there on distance learning, best practices, etc. Make sure to look at the resources on the left of this newsletter. This is a good time to see what's out there, practice using something that may be new for you, make sure you have a Google Classroom set up, whatever you need to do to get prepared. It's entirely possible this could be how the rest of this school year goes, and that's a HUGE change in our working conditions, one that most of us probably weren't prepared for...let's do the best we can and support each other!

On another note, HR is starting to look at staffing for next year. As always, if you know for sure you plan to retire or resign this year, it would be very helpful if you let HR know as soon as you can. It could prevent someone from being involuntarily transferred if HR is aware of future vacancies. Of course the actual deadline for notifying HR is the end of June, so this request is only for those who are 100% certain they won't be returning next year.

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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