

August 12, 2020

Dear Round Valley Families,

As notified yesterday, Round Valley School will be starting the year off with a distance learning model. We are disappointed that this turn of events has happened so close to school reopening, but safety concerns drive this decision.

We will be following Bishop Unified School's calendar as we share so many families and staff. To that end, on Monday, August 17th, all parents can come by the school between 1:00 and 4:00 pm to pick up the curriculum crate that will contain all materials needed for home. (Please wear your mask and practice social distancing.) Included will be a welcome back assignment for the students to work on for Monday and Tuesday, to talk about with their class on Wednesday, when we first meet virtually. On Monday evening, I will host a virtual Back to School Night where all parents can tune in to get an overview of our distance learning plan. On Tuesday, August 18th, you will join your classroom teacher for a virtual meeting to discuss academic expectations. Our start date for our first online sessions will be on August 19th following a class schedule that will be shared by your teacher. The master schedule will be from 8:15am to 12:00pm and continue from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

Please understand that this is not the same mode we were in when we did the emergency shutdown last March. We knew this could be coming and have planned to conduct school remotely, replicating a school day as closely as possible, to establish normalcy and to provide a structured education for our students. Outlined below is how we are going to make this happen:

1. We are going to get classroom curriculum and computers to you on Monday, August 17th. Computers will go home to all students, even if you have a personal computer at home. We will be sending home a crate with all textbooks and consumable materials so that they will be organized and at your fingertips during class sessions. Supplemental packets will be distributed weekly as well.
2. We will schedule Google Meet sessions on Tuesday, August 18th, with each classroom teacher to make introductions and talk about remote academic expectations. Look for your invitation in your email box.
3. We will all be using Google Classroom to manage our classroom schedules, assignments, parent communications, and to schedule remote sessions. Students will be expected to join all remote sessions and will be marked absent if they do not attend. Parents will be contacted just as if they are absent from school.
4. Each classroom teacher will be sending "invitations" for the sessions that will occur during the day. These invitations will go to the student email and a reminder notification will go to the parent email. In essence, we will have scheduled online sessions to deliver content, then provide time for the student to do the assignment in their "home classroom", with teacher support. We are working hard to balance the educational standards and the time required to teach content with the need for kids to be independent. We relied a great deal on families to do instruction during our emergency shutdown and we want to turn the table on that and put instruction back in the hands of the teacher. This will require more sessions, but will provide a better education for our students.

5. We are assuming that all families still have the same internet capabilities that they had as the school year ended. If that is not the case, please contact the school ASAP.

6. Nutrition and lunch meals will still be provided during remote learning. Meals will be assembled in Grab-and-Go fashion and will be delivered daily to the two bus stops (Mesa @7:45/ Rovana @ 7:55) for family pickup. Any family may request meals. If you are not on our list already, please contact the school ASAP. Meal delivery to town families has not been arranged as of yet. Standby.

7. Supplemental Packet delivery/pick-ups will take place at the above times on Monday.

8. We have transitioned to a new Student Information System over the summer called Aeries. (This will replace Schoolwise). Parents will be getting an invitation to set up their on-line access and then be invited to update their enrollment data and acknowledge several on-line forms. Please accomplish this as soon as you can so that we have the latest emergency information. We are also transitioning to a new cafeteria system that will allow parents to view and pay their bills on-line using a credit card should they choose. This is not yet up and running but will be available soon.

We will be doing distance learning until the health of our community becomes stable. We will provide a two-week notice, to the extent possible, to make the transition back to in-seat instruction. Should we need to return to distance learning again, it will be at the direction of the Public Health Department and could happen quickly. The spread of the virus controls these decisions, but we can help stem the spread in our community by following health and safety guidelines to keep schools open.

We are all feeling the stress of this pandemic. We need to work together to make the education of our children successful. Please feel free to call the school as needed.

Karen Marshall

Superintendent/Principal