

March 23, 2021

Dear T/E Families,

As we approach spring break later this week, I would like to share several updates on instructional planning, opportunities for feedback, reminders about our Health and Safety Plan, and the District's continuing commitment to equity for all members of the school community.

Instruction on Wednesdays – Parent and Student Feedback

On March 1, the School Board approved an instructional model for four days of in-person classes with virtual instruction continuing on Wednesdays. Tomorrow we will send a survey to TESD families and secondary students to gather input on whether or not to continue this model after the week of April 16. Students currently enrolled in the 100% virtual instructional option will remain virtual on all days. The survey will open tomorrow and will run through Wednesday, March 31, and the plan will be shared during the week of April 5.

Planning for 2021-2022

TESD is actively planning for the 2021-2022 school year. At three recent public meetings, I presented an overview of instructional and operational considerations we are exploring as we plan for next year and beyond. TESD plans to offer five days of in-person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year unless there is a significant negative change in pandemic conditions. We realize some families may have a continued interest in a virtual instructional option. During April, we will assess family interest in a virtual instructional model for the 2021-2022 school year. Your feedback will be an important part of the process and will be considered as we plan instructional options for next year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us with many takeaways and has given the District an opportunity to consider different approaches for delivering our programs and services. There are questions about many aspects of our current program, such as scheduling formats, grading periods and assessment, that we will continue discussing between now and August. We look forward to incorporating feedback from all stakeholder groups as we make decisions that could result in long-term, systemic change. For additional information, please view the [recording of the March 11, 2021 Education Committee meeting presentation on planning for 2021-2022](#). In addition, we have created a new [planning for 2021-2022 hub](#) on the TESD website, which is available under Quick Links at www.tesd.net. As always, we will share information and details with the school community as decisions are made.

Health and Safety Plan Reminders

TESD staff members were pleased to welcome students to school buildings for expanded in-person instruction last week. With more students present in our schools, it is imperative that all members of the school community continue to follow and support health and safety protocols. We understand that families may choose to travel over spring break, and this may mean exposure to individuals outside of our regular geographic circles. We ask that you please remain vigilant by supporting the COVID-19 mitigation strategies of proper mask wearing, physical distancing and hand washing.

At home daily symptom screening is a requirement for physical attendance at school. The District's Health and Safety Plan asks that you monitor your child for any COVID-19 symptoms and keep them home from school if they do not pass the daily symptom screening. Students may log in remotely if they

are feeling well enough, otherwise please contact your building attendance office for an excused absence.

TESD Statement Regarding Anti-Asian American Violence and Discrimination

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the T/E School District's stance against racism of any kind. Given the recent national conversation, we emphasize our denouncement of racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Last week, [TESD's statement regarding anti-Asian American violence and discrimination](#) was posted on the District website, shared with staff, and included in the weekly e-newsletter. Together we can continue to support each other to ensure our schools are places where all students are included, heard, and valued.

Thank you once again for your support and partnership as we continue to move in a positive direction toward normalcy in our schools. Please watch for additional communication from the District in the coming days and weeks. I wish you and your family an enjoyable spring break.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Gusick
Superintendent of Schools