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March 11, 2020

Dear SCCS Community,

The safety of students and staff are our top priority in Santa Cruz City Schools. This letter outlines our immediate plans to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) to our school community. We are in regular communication with the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gail Newel, as this is an ever changing situation. We are providing community updates with greater frequency as needed. You can find that information at www.sccs.net.

On March 8, 2020, you received a message from all 10 Superintendents in the county regarding COVID-19 which indicated that out of an abundance of caution, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all field trips with destinations outside of Santa Cruz County. We have also conducted a case by case review of athletic, music and academic competitions.

Given the most recent County guidance from the County Health Services Agency to slow the spread of the virus and protect overall community health, we are minimizing large in-person gatherings. With that criteria in mind, we are planning to implement the following:

- We will review all in-county field trips on a case-by-case basis.
- Outdoor athletics will continue as scheduled.
- All indoor athletic tournaments involving multiple teams are cancelled.
- All Non-League athletic tournaments are cancelled.
- For indoor sports, only parent and guardian spectators will be permitted.
- All Middle School Wrestling is cancelled.
- All sporting events will refrain from traditional “hand shakes” & “high fives”.
- Music festivals and concerts are cancelled or postponed. (We are exploring virtual concerts and programs.)
- Events with more than 50 people in attendance, per County guidance, will be postponed or cancelled. (Site Principals will send out specific information on cancelled site events.)

At this point no school closures are taking place in Santa Cruz County. Closing schools is a difficult decision as it impacts students, families and employers. In accordance with guidance from the California Department of Public Health and our County Health Officer, school closure will be a measure to be taken if **one student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and exposed others at the school**. The length of time of the closure will be based on the risk level as determined by the local public health officer, though it is expected that such a closure would be for a minimum of 14 days. During this time, the school will undergo deep cleaning and sanitizing. We are making preparations for continuity of education through distance learning solutions for students in the event of a school closure. Additionally, it is important for parents to prepare for the possibility of a school closure. In the event that a school is closed, you will be contacted via email, robo call and text.

We continue to encourage measures to prevent the spread of flu that will also guard against the spread of COVID-19:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available;
- get your flu shot to protect against flu or symptoms similar to COVID-19;
- avoid close contact with people who are sick;

- cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- avoid shaking hands;
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning supplies;
- avoid touching your face with unwashed hands;
- stay home from school or work when you are sick with a fever; and
- call your primary care provider for instructions BEFORE seeking in-person care for flu-like symptoms

We will keep you updated as new information evolves. I recognize that each day you entrust us with the care of your children, and I assure you that we take that responsibility very seriously. Please contact your school if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kris Munro
Superintendent