

March 19, 2020

Hello, Friends and Families of ER9:

Many teachers and administrators were working today to prepare for a virtual day for our faculties and maybe a few more employees tomorrow. Teachers will be working from home on a Professional Development day. We still intend to convene our first session of Distance Learning on Monday, March 23.

This is a really big locomotive. Getting the wheels turning and running will take time. Our teachers will be working on getting us moving again. But with any big undertaking we will need to have small advances and pick up steam.

You and your children should expect to receive assignments, or activities or resources from your teachers no earlier than Monday. The most likely medium will be emails that work through our er9.org. Assignments might also come through Google Classroom.

You might receive phone calls next week from our teachers or some of our staff members, but I have directed them all to block their personal phone numbers. Therefore, if you happen to get a call that has the number blocked, it might be a teacher trying to make contact.

We will not be using any of the online platforms that are (1) in real time and (2) show visuals of the teachers and the students talking to each other. I can't name them all, but I am referring to such things as Skype, Facetime, Google Hangouts, Zoom or other 'live' means of seeing each other.

You might, on the other hand, get a video clip from a teacher who has put together a recording of himself or herself demonstrating an activity or lesson, but it won't be live.

If this Distance Learning goes on for more than a brief time, as it might, we may get to a point where we convene real-time classes for some courses using those media, but that will not take place this coming week. We will monitor and adjust.

My direction about not using virtual, real-time classes will include high school lessons next week even if some of the oldest classes have used such platforms previously. Again, maybe we will get there later, but not next week.

If I can make one suggestion this afternoon, it is to go through the message in box on your cell phones and empty them of unneeded messages. That will clear up space for new ones!

We will continue to email you with updates, and you will also be hearing from our Principals and soon our teachers, too.

Tom McMorran, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Easton, Redding, and Region 9 School Districts