



August 10, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the 2020-21 school year! We are so excited to be embarking on this new journey with you. Here are some of the developments and what to expect in the coming days.

This semester, we are starting with online instruction and we need to be prepared to continue with this method of instruction until it is safe to re-open the school for in-person instruction. It has been a very different summer than what we are used to; preparing to open our school for what has become known as the “new reality “ of virtual or distance learning. This is a tremendous undertaking as we move forward to build relationships with our students online. We must embrace this responsibility to provide students with the skills and practices to become lifelong learners and to prepare for college.

Online learning is significantly different from in-person instruction and we will be diving deeper into what that means in our teacher professional development, community meetings and discussions at our school as well as at the district level. This year Lowell, and all other SFUSD high schools will be conforming to an online instructional day that is more in sync, our classes begin at 9AM and end at 2:10 PM. The CA State Department of Education has determined that each and every student must have a minimum of 240 minutes of instruction which is both synchronous and asynchronous. What this means is that students will be expected to be online with their classes in real time for part of each school day, and part of their learning will also take place independently, at their own pace.

This week:

Monday Aug. 10th: Freshman orientation is being conducted online, [Freshmen Orientation Link](#).

Tuesday, Aug 11th: First day back for teachers, counselors and other staff members. We will be conducting online PD to orient our teachers and staff to our proposed schedule and calendar at that time.

Wednesday: Student schedules will be released and a link for requests for changes to schedules will be posted at that time as well.

Thursday: District-led departmental meetings for teachers.

Friday: Teachers will be posting links to their Google classrooms for students to log into on Monday, Aug 17th.

Monday: First day of school! Teachers will be welcoming students into their virtual classrooms

In order to communicate with parents and families it is vitally important that you have updated your contact information and have activated your ParentVue account. We encourage you to sign up if you have not done so already.

[Instructions for activating a ParentVue or ParentVue mobile account](#). You only need to do this once for as long as your student is enrolled at SFUSD. This helps SFUSD manage all technology requests for students. If you do not need technology it also helps families communicate with the school, get notifications from the district, view report cards, and [many other features](#).

If your student does not have access to the technology needed please fill out this SFUSD [Technology Request Form](#). It will help us get devices allocated to our site to distribute to your students. We are awaiting the delivery of additional computers from the District and we anticipate distribution next week from Wednesday to Friday. Details will be posted on our website and emailed out to families when we have the specific dates confirmed.

We have learned a lot from this past Spring. In our meetings with other principals and administrators, we have heard the need for increased communication, consistency and accountability and we aim to strengthen these aspects of our program.

I thank you for your continued patience and understanding and I look forward to “seeing” our students in their online classes, and building our online community to better support our students.

Dacotah Swett, Principal
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