



April 2, 2020

Dear Grimmway Schools' Faculty and Staff,

As many of you are already aware, Governor Newsom has recommended that all schools in California shift to a distance learning model for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year.

Grimmway Schools will follow the recommendation of Governor Gavin Newsom, and complete the rest of the 2019-20 school year utilizing alternative teaching methodologies, including online distance learning.

Well, it would be a profound understatement to say that this is something that any of us anticipated when we decided to work in the K-12 education sector. These are unprecedented times we are living in. The situation in which we now all find ourselves is one that will challenge us, test our resolve and our patience, and will compel us to push the boundaries of our professional expertise.

It has been humbling to see how many of you have stepped up over the last few weeks and contributed by doing whatever was necessary to ensure that we continue to serve the essential needs of our students and families. A special thanks goes to the Café and custodial staff at both schools – they have been working nonstop since the shutdown to ensure that we continue to serve our mission. And I would be remiss by not mentioning how inspiring it has been to see how many of you volunteered to step up and distribute meals or chrome books over the past few weeks.

The news of schools being closed for the rest of the school year does not come as a great surprise given the importance of engaging in social distancing to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Despite the expectation of many that shutting down for the rest of the school year was a foregone conclusion, this does not make the challenges we face any less complex.

Over the next several months we are all going to be asked to do more, operate out of our individual comfort zones, learn new ways of doing our jobs, and stretch our professional "legs." Some of you will be asked to continue reporting to campus to prepare and distribute meals to our families; and others to assist with the supervision of children in our school community whose parents – like us – are essential employees, called upon by our Governor to continue vital services such as medical care and emergency services. These are difficult asks in even the best of times – and especially challenging given the circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this is the service that we are called upon to provide.

5080 California Ave, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

(661) 432-7880 | Main

(661) 404-4871 | Fax

www.grimmwayschools.org



Educating the young, and accompanying them on their journey toward adulthood is one of the foundations of a flourishing and healthy society. Everyone working for Grimmway Schools plays an important role, whether you are a classroom teacher, or your duties lie in supporting the learning process through your particular position – we are all educators, and I am proud of everyone in this organization for choosing to be a part of our important mission to serve to the communities most in need.

I have little doubt that we as a community will rise to meet whatever challenges may lie ahead. Over the next several months it is important that we extend grace to each other, as well as to ourselves. It may not always be easy. We may not always have every answer. But working together through this unprecedented situation we will develop solutions and approaches that will ultimately make us far more effective as an organization in the long run.

A few things to continue to keep in mind -

- If you are sick or mildly sick for any reason, stay home! Call your doctor if you are concerned and/or if your symptoms worsen.
 - Symptoms to watch for include a fever over 100 degrees; respiratory illness such as cough or difficulty breathing.
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay 6 feet or more away from strangers and those who are ill.
- Do not shake hands with others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your sleeve; safely throw away tissues in a safe manner.

My deepest gratitude for the professionalism and teamwork that you have already shown, and my appreciation in advance for the amazing things you will all be doing with your scholars over the next several months. More than at any other time, our families are relying on us to deliver on the promise that we have made to provide a rigorous and joyful educational experience.

Please know that I am thinking about each of you, your families, and loved ones throughout this challenging time.

With a resolute heart,

Casey Yeazel
Executive Director

5080 California Ave, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93309

(661) 432-7880 | Main

(661) 404-4871 | Fax

www.grimmwayschools.org