

Weekly Updates

Vol. 1, Issue 1 | April 17, 2020

In an effort to streamline our communications during school closures, we have created a weekly community newsletter. This communication is the district's main form of communication with parents and the community. The newsletter will be available on our website and will be shared via email, text and voice message, and social media. It will be sent every Friday morning.

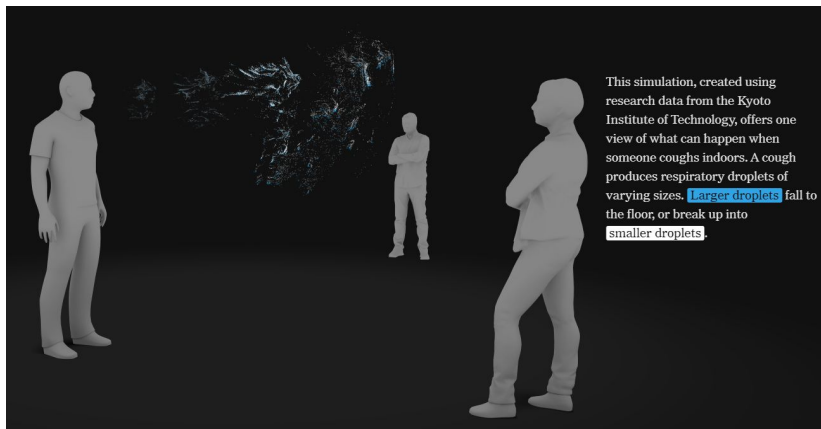
Superintendent's Message

The Importance of Social Distancing Demonstrated in a Visual 3-D Simulation

Dear Madera Unified Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the guidelines on social distancing, also called "physical distancing," put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It states that you must keep space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

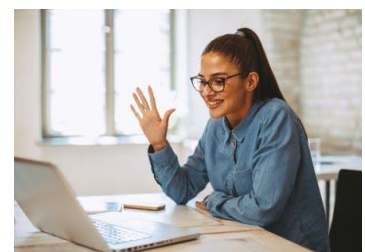
- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) or more from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings



Scientists are learning about the novel coronavirus in real-time, and this 3-D interactive simulation done by the New York Times shows why social distancing is so critical. We recommend you click on the link or image and take a moment to visually examine why understanding the possible transmission routes for the virus can help us see why keeping our distance is very important. [Link](#)

Student Care Calls

Madera Unified is dedicated to achieving high academic success for all students, despite the Coronavirus Pandemic. During these tough times parents/guardians and staff can play a fundamental role in the learning of the students. Madera Unified has developed a Student Care Check-In platform to help staff reach-out to students and gather key information to support students' needs and coordinate services appropriately. Teachers and other support roles will communicate with their students at least once





(but not limited to once) per week through a live conversation such as a telephone call or video conference. During the call, teachers will be asked to use the Student Care Check-In platform to ensure contact is made with every student. The Student Care Check-In platform will allow teachers to gather basic information that will also assist other departments and support positions in coordinating the appropriate resources or assistance.

Child Nutrition

Meal Distribution

Our next meal distribution date for families will be on Tuesday, April 21. Please read the parent message below where you will find updated information regarding food distributions. [Message to Parents Regarding Meal Distribution Changes Link](#)



Student and Family Support Services

Resources from the California Department of Education Regarding an Available Food App for Locating Local Food Distributions

Use this [link](#) to view the document.



Information Regarding Open Enrollment

Use this [link](#) to view the document.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Our community partners at Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Council have shared parenting courses and a variety of learning opportunities for children in the attached link. Use this [link](#) to view the document.

Supporting MUSD Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic

On behalf of the network of Parent Resource Centers (PRCs), we extend our best wishes for a safe and productive fourth quarter. The PRC's will be providing educational resources in this Community Newsletter for parents to support their children's education while at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use this [link](#) to view the document.

Use this [link](#) to view some educational resources.

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Parent Resource Center

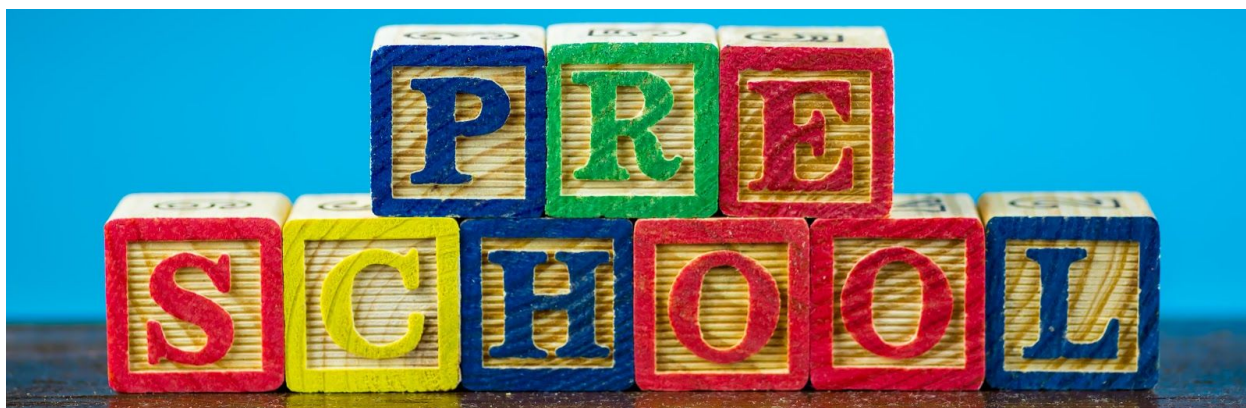
*Working together with parents, schools,
and the community to help students succeed*

Educational Services

Continuous Learning



The Visual & Performing Arts Department is providing ongoing instruction for students via digital learning, Google Classroom, access to updated district website instructional materials, video conferencing and available office hours to students. The staff is working to keep our spirits up and meet regularly. The VAPA Department at Madera South met via Zoom, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, whereby teachers were given procedures by site administration to provide upcoming instruction and support for students. Dr. Marcheta Williams, Director of Visual and Performing Arts, continues to meet each week with Elementary and Middle School Music Teachers to plan and develop instruction and strategies for students. Alexia Vargas, music teacher at Alpha School and Diego Zarate-White, music teacher at Howard School participated in school wide caravans. Additional Resources: [Link](#)



Preschool Applications

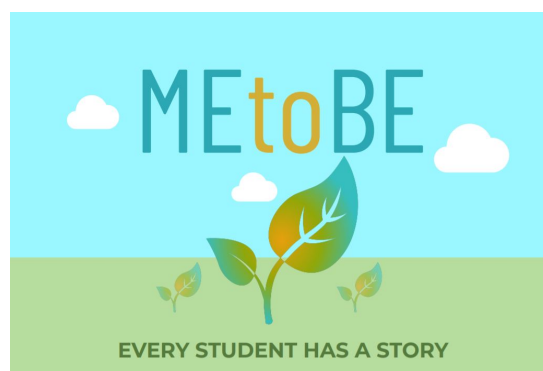
Preschool application packets will be available on **Monday, April 20**, at all K-6 and K-8 elementary school sites. There will be staff onsite with a sign guiding parents where to drive up to and pick up applications. Application pickups will be on the sidewalk in front of the school and/or the preschool classroom.

Accountability & Communications

Updated Q3 MeToBe Reports

The English and Spanish versions of the Quarter 3 MEtoBE reports for 2nd through 8th grades, that includes the most recent grades, assessment results and Grade Level Readiness, are now available in the Aeries School and Parent Portals.

As a reminder, the MEtoBE Grade Level Readiness report sprouted from the idea of helping students grow. The cover of each MEtoBE report is personalized with the student's photo, their name, the school they attend, their grade level, and graduation year. It is an individualized booklet containing multiple data points that make up a student's grade level readiness score.



For more information on the MEtoBE reports please visit <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/domain/3110>

Weekly Highlights

School Staff Car Caravans & Virtual Parade



Alpha Elementary School staff coordinated a car parade through their student's neighborhoods. Dozens of cars decorated with many different messages such as "We Miss You" and "Keep Practicing" made their way up and down many of Alpha Elementary neighborhoods while honking, yelling, and displaying the positive messages for students to hear and see. The students were informed of the caravan in advance and also made messages for the teachers and staff. According to the event coordinator Andrea Burton, who is also a 4th-grade teacher, said they miss them so much and this was a way to see them while still practicing safe social distancing.

Click on the image to see their We Believe story.



Howard School had a Staff Car Parade through their student's neighborhoods on Friday, April 3, 2020. Beth Sally, who is a 4th-grade teacher at Howard, said they really miss them and this was a safe way to see them and give them a little cheer.

Click on the image to see their We Believe story.



On April 3, 2020, **Nishimoto Elementary School** staff hosted a car parade through their student's neighborhoods. According to Nishimoto Principal Erin Falke, they felt it was important to do this since they never really got to say goodbye to the students and this was a fun way to show them they are still thinking about them. She went on to say this was a safe way to connect with them in a positive way.

Click on the image to see their We Believe story.





Pershing Elementary School had a Staff Car Parade through their student's neighborhoods while practicing social distancing. Event coordinator and 2nd-grade teacher at Pershing Lisa Bennett said that they put this together because it had been weeks since they had seen all their students and they really missed them.

Click on the image to see their We Believe story.



Parkwood Elementary School staff put together a **Virtual Staff Parade** because they wanted to have the chance to send messages to their students to let them know how much we care and how much they are missed. They decided on a virtual parade rather than a staff car parade to ensure social distancing for all staff, students, and parents.

Click on the image to see their We Believe story.

