



Berenda Elementary

"Home of the Broncos"

26820 Club Drive, Madera, CA 93638
Ph: 559.674.3325 Fax: 559.674.5617

Carsten Christiansen - Principal
Michelle Watson - Vice Principal

Hi Broncos,

I'm excited!! The start of the new year is getting close. Your Berenda teachers are excited too and working hard to get ready for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We will begin the year in a Distance Learning Model. This means you will need to come to school to pick up your school supplies. We have a BIG box for everyone. (And it is heavy!) You will get textbooks, school supplies, and more. If you don't currently have a Chrome Book, you will be picking up one of those too. If you are not currently approved for a HotSpot, you may call the Call Center Help Line at 416-5879.

For students in grades 3-6, you will come to Berenda on Monday Aug 17th (Last name A-M) and Tuesday, Aug 18th (N-Z).

Pick up times on the 17th and 18th will be 8:00-11:00.

Third grade will use a drive thru model. 3rd grade teachers will be handing out boxes from the side gate on Midland Way.

4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers will be handing out boxes in the front parking lot.

You will drive up, stay in your car, and we will put the box in the back of your car.

It is important that all 3rd thru 6th grade students pick up their box so they are ready to begin distance learning on Wednesday at 9:30.

Grades 3-6 will begin class on Wed, Aug 19th at 9:30 with their teachers. They will have to go to their Google Classroom accounts to access the Zoom or Google Meet links. Teachers will be sending home information to explain how to join their Google Classroom account. This first day will be a "Meet and Greet" with the teacher and some activities for students to complete on their own after they sign off with the teacher.

The **typical week for everyone** has students and teachers meeting online on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday, teachers will be in meetings, attending professional development, and preparing for their lessons. Wednesday is a day that students will have assignments to complete, but will be working on their own. It is important that students follow the daily schedule every day. Routines are important and routines help a child to be successful and learn!

For students in grades TK-2, you will come to Berenda based on your appointment time. We will get information about your scheduled time very soon. You will come to your meeting and will learn how to log onto the internet with your child's Chrome Book. It is very important that you take this opportunity to make sure you understand how to connect your child's Chrome Book to the internet.

All parents with a meeting time will need to check in with our front office. We will take your temperature and have you provide answers to our COVID Wellness Survey. We ask that you show up a few minutes before your appointed time so that we can get everyone through the process and to their classrooms on time. You will receive a 'pass' to show the teacher when you go to your meeting. We will have a line and appreciate that everyone leaves 6 feet of physical distance.

Since we are taking the time to go through some important computer basics at this meeting, it will take longer to distribute materials. Therefore, our **TK-2 students will begin instruction with their teachers on**



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Monday, Aug 24th. I know this sounds like a long time, but since everything we are doing is going to be done via the computer, we want to make sure that all our families are able to connect to the internet. For the 19th, 20th, and 21st, we will be sending you a link to a list of activities that you can have your children do. Some of them require the computer, and we realize if you haven't picked yours up yet, you may not be able to complete those tasks, but that is OK. There are plenty of other activities that can and should be done that don't require a computer.

For all grade levels, you will see that we have defined Instructional Blocks of time for learning and for breaks...just like we have in school. Multiple things will be happening during the Instructional Block times. Teachers will be online with students teaching lessons, students will be working independently, students will be viewing information at various online locations, students will be working on various online programs, reading independently, and more. It is important that you and your child understand that we expect them to be participating like they were at school, even though they are 'at home'. You can check out the district's [ICP2.0 document](#) on page 22-23 for the schedules.

Students will be getting assignments via Google Classroom. You child will need to complete these assignments and turn them in. Don't worry, if you don't know how to submit an assignment...your teachers will teach their students how to do this. Students will be graded on their work. If students don't show up to their scheduled classroom meetings, don't participate, or don't complete assignments, we will be calling to find out why. We realize there can be many reasons...and we will work together to overcome any obstacles that are in the way.

We all agree that education is vitally important for our children. We know that right now we are experiencing a terrible time in human history. We also have the hope that we will soon be back together, learning, side by side in a classroom with our friends. But, until then, we are going to continue to provide your children with wonderful educational opportunities. It will take teamwork, but together we will succeed.

Thanks for reading...and we will see you all the week of Aug 17th for supply pick up and the beginning of our 2020-21 school year.

Be Safe and Give Grace!
Go Broncos!
Mr. Christiansen