



Berenda Elementary

November 2020

Principal's Message

Hi Broncos,

I hope this message finds you and your family well.

We are entering our 4th month of distance learning in this school year and I know we are all feeling a bit overwhelmed. It may be from getting kicked out of Zoom meetings, from trying to get our own children to complete their assignments, or from stresses relating to other things happening in our lives. When we feel this way as adults, we know it is also affecting the way our children feel.

I have had conversations with many of our families and appreciate all you are doing to support your children and their teachers. I can't predict the future, but I am confident that if we continue to work together and support each other, we will be able to help our Broncos, your children, continue to learn and grow academically and socially.

Our teachers have developed routines for Zoom meetings and asynchronous work assignments. Humans thrive with routines. I know it is hard on students to be behind their Chrome books and not at school, but we need your encouragement and support to help keep them focused. I understand many of you are working and this is difficult. If you can take some time to talk with your child about what they are learning and have them show you their Google Classroom assignments and what is in their 'missing' tab, it will help them to understand how important school is. Ask them to tell you about Khan (3rd-6th), STMath (K-2nd), or Lexia (1st-3rd), and have them show you what they are doing and how many minutes they have each week.

Yes, we have high expectations. We have high expectations because we want the best for all our students - just like you do for your children. **But, if something comes up, please let your child's teacher know and we will definitely be understanding and Give Grace. We are in this together!**

To keep school familiar, we are still having our Friday Spirit Days. We had some fun with our Red Ribbon Week dress up days. And, we have our [Pumpkin Decorating video](#) posted on our website so students can see all the creative pumpkins that our Broncos designed. (<https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/Page/12183>) We also have our annual [book fair](#) going on right now. (<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/berenda>) A new book is a great way to keep a child interested in reading! We know things are different this year, but we are still trying to keep all our students engaged and excited about school.

Be Safe and Give Grace!

Mr. Christiansen

What's coming...

We celebrate Veteran's Day each year on **November 11th**. Because Veteran's Day falls on a Wed this year, Wednesday will be a **holiday and a day off from school**. I know I've been reminding everyone that students need to complete assignments on Wed each week...but not on Nov. 11th. On that day we will take some time to thank our veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good of the United States of America.

Because Nov. 11th is a holiday, we will be distributing **food on Thursday, November 12th**. All other weeks we will continue with Wednesday food distribution.

I hope everyone has been taking advantage of our new way of communicating with parents - ParentSquare. You can choose to receive messages via text or email. **You can also download the ParentSquare app to your cellphone**. If you are not set up with ParentSquare, please call the office and we can help. Here is a link to the [ParentSquare website with answers to some frequently asked questions](#).



Wondering how you can **get your very own Bronco shirts and sweatshirts**. We've got the answer! Click on this [link](#) and you will see T-shirts, V-necks, Hoodies, and more. The store closes on 11/15...so don't wait.



Our next **Learning Packet distribution will be Wednesday, Nov 4 from 10-12:30**.

We have some PE equipment for all students in first - sixth grade.

In addition, some grade levels will have learning packets to hand out.

And, we will be distributing food from 11-12:30.

We are starting earlier this week so we don't have the same long line that we had last month.

If you are not interested in getting lunch, you can come early to get your supplies.

We will also be open from 5:00-5:45 for those of you who need a later pickup time.

Take a moment and think about what you want for your child in their life. It is important for students to understand that even though we are not physically in school, teachers are still teaching and we want students to be learning. We can all agree that we want our children to get a fabulous education so that they can do whatever they want in life.

With that in mind...Progress reports will be available for you to review on Nov 20th. This means that teachers will have grades updated from the Friday before. **You can go to your Parent Portal account on Nov 20th (or at any time) to monitor how your child is doing**. Students are also able to monitor their grades. Have them show you if they have any missing assignments?

Event Highlights

We had a great turnout to our Pumpkin Decorating Celebration. If you log on to our Berenda website, you can view a video of all the pumpkins that were submitted.

Student Health & Wellness

We are home more now with our families and we can use that time to help support our children. From the Alliance for a Healthier Generation website, here is a link to a good article about making the most of the time we have together.

[*Sharing Our Stories: Family Conversations for Social-Emotional Health*](#) ~"Did you know that you can improve social-emotional health by having meaningful conversations with loved ones? Whether at home, over the phone, or virtually, sharing stories across generations is a great way to increase resilience and positive emotions like happiness and empathy."

(Think about the great times you have had sitting around telling stories with friends and relatives.)