



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

---

**March 19, 2021**

I am pleased to share this update with our families, staff, students, and community. In it, you will find more information on our approach to reopening, including plans for this summer and fall. There are also a number of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. As always, I hope you are staying safe and healthy!

### REOPENING PLANS

As we continue to plan for reopening our schools, our goal is to have ample planning time to ensure we can provide high-quality programming while protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

On June 22, we will begin in-person learning through an extended school year for students with special needs, as well as a summer school program for general education students. There will also be student intervention opportunities this summer.

In Banning, we know the importance of providing in-person learning. At the same time, we must make sure we are providing a healthy learning environment for students and staff. This requires considerable preparation and planning on the part of district administrators, our teachers, and our staff.

Recently, the state legislature recently passed [Assembly Bill 86](#), which provides incentives for California schools to reopen. At this time, we do not believe the financial benefits outweigh the risk of rushing our reopening plans. Doing so could negatively impact the quality of instruction and our health and safety protocols. We remain focused on planning for increasing our level of in-person instruction this summer and next fall.

The engagement of our parents will continue to be hugely important to this process. We will be scheduling parent meetings with interpreters for families whose home language is exclusively Spanish, Laos, Tagalog, Arabic, Filipino (Tagalog), Farsi, Hmong, Khmer (Cambodian), Portuguese, Thai, Telugu, Vietnamese, and American sign language.

The purpose of these meetings is to connect with parents directly, learn about their concerns, and share our rationale and plans for reopening this summer. We look forward to connecting with parents to share information and answer questions in the near future.

### BOOK SERIES

I'm pleased to share that we will be hosting a Superintendent's Book Club series with our parents and staff! Our conversation will focus on the book [Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems](#), by Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn.

Keep an eye out for a link that will be sent to all staff and parents. This will allow you to participate, receive the free book, and attend virtual meetings with the superintendent and cabinet.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Below are some upcoming events for our students, families, and community members:

### **Safety, Mental Health, and Wellness Series: Grief & Anxiety**

Tuesday, April 20 at 2:00 p.m.

[Learn more](#)

### **Free Enrichment Classes for Elementary & Middle School Students**

From the Heart Performing Arts

[See flyer](#)

### **Virtual Retirement Reception**

*Tentative date: Friday, May 14, 4:30-6:00 p.m.*

### **Plant a Tree Ceremony**

To honor Lisa Acosta, Lydia Taylor, Sioux Rees-Mitchell, and 13-year-old Anthony Humphrey - loved ones we have lost in the past two years.

*Tentative date: Wednesday, May 19, 4:00-5:00 p.m.*

### **Virtual Board Study Session**

Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

### **Virtual Board Meeting**

Wednesday, March 31, 4:30 p.m.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thrilled to be able to recognize students who are doing an amazing job as readers! Students in grades TK-5 have access to myON, which is a digital resource that provides personalized reading practice. Our students have enjoyed reading over 150,000 minutes and over 13,000 books. Next week, we will honor our top readers by naming them and their schools.