



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

March 26, 2021

I hope that everyone in our school district community had a great week. I would like to share a number of important updates with our families, staff, students, and community.

Below, you will find information on our reopening plans and some key dates to note. You will also find updates on spring assessments, acknowledgements and highlights, and some upcoming events that may be of interest to you.

As always, thank you for your support of the Banning Unified School District and the students we serve!

REOPENING PLANS

As we have shared earlier, while Assembly Bill 86 provides some incentives for schools to reopen, we do not believe the financial benefits are worth the risk of rushing our reopening plans.

To that end, we continue to focus on our planning to gradually increase the level of in-person instruction we provide to students this summer and into the fall. By taking this approach, we can help ensure we protect the safety of our students, maintain sound fiscal discipline, and deliver a high level of quality in our educational programs.

Banning has received an Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant to accelerate learning and address student needs. The grant will also allow us to provide extended learning opportunities, professional development, and other activities to support in-person instruction in the future.

Below are some important updates and dates to keep in mind over the next several months:

- This summer, we will offer opportunities for students in grades K-8 to mitigate learning loss due to the pandemic. We will also provide credit recovery options for students in grades 9-11. These programs will take place from June 22 through July 30, 2021.
- We will extend the school year for our students in special education, who will be able to attend in-person programs from June 22 through July 19. There will also be a Special Education Intensive Intervention learning loss regression program July 20-30.
- We will reopen our schools for in-person learning, with options for a hybrid and virtual instructional model, on August 12. This will mark the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.
- Our opening day, professional development, and teacher prep days before the start of the next school year will take place August 9-11.

SPRING ASSESSMENTS

Spring assessments may look a little different this year for students in grades 3-8 and 11. The California State Board of Education took the first step toward giving districts the option of using the statewide

assessments **OR** district-selected assessments for the 2020-21 school year. This is a national issue, and supporters of public education across the country are vocalizing their concerns to the U.S. Department of Education.

If your student is in grades 3-8 or 11, you will receive their results based on our district-selected assessments in both English language arts and mathematics.

While spring assessments are important, they represent just one way to measure student progress and learning. They are not meant to tell the whole story of student learning, but when combined with other factors like report card grades and teacher input, they give families a more complete picture of their child's performance. This enables you, a parent or guardian, to partner with teachers to accelerate student achievement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Congratulations to our myOn 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 380,000 minutes and more than 9,800 books.

- Hemmerling's myOn readers read 870 books
- Central's myOn readers read 782 books
- Cabazon's myOn readers read 532 books

The Top 5 Individual Student myOn Readers across all schools in the Banning Unified School District this week are:

1. Central Elementary 1st grader Jacoby Yang, who has read 130 books
2. Hemmerling 2nd grader Andy Nuñez, who has read 70 books
3. Central 3rd grader Charlotte Ramirez, who has read 66 books
4. Hemmerling 4th grader Cylah Salazar, who has read 61 books
5. Central 5th grader Alea Jasmin Ballain, who has read 51 books

Congratulations to our district's top myOn readers for this week!

Each week, hundreds of students are participating in our free enrichment classes for elementary and middle school students. It's great to see students engaged in art and theatre in the afternoon!

We continue to be very excited about the level of teaching and learning that is taking place, despite the pandemic. Teachers and staff continue to work hard to ensure our students' instructional and socioemotional needs are being met. Thank you to our staff for making it all happen in these very challenging times!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Superintendent's Book Study Sessions

If you are interested in joining our next virtual superintendent's book study session, please contact Febe Lorio at florio@banning.k12.ca.us or 951-492-8819. She will mail you a free book next month for our sessions in May. We are going to be reading *Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems*, by world-renowned researchers Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn.

During our last book study session, we read *Learned Optimism: How to change your mind and your life*, by Martin P. Seligman, M.D.

Virtual Board Study Sessions for Facilities

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The board will discuss addressing our health and safety needs for quality learning spaces across the entire district. This is the first of many sessions in which we will discuss and outline phases of modernization so our staff and students are in quality work and learning spaces with clean air, quality water sources, and secure infrastructure.

Regular Board Meeting (Virtual)

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

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

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

[Learn more](#)

From the Heart Performing Arts

Mondays & Wednesdays

[See flyer for more information](#)

Virtual Retirement Reception for Banning Staff

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

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of someone else."

— *Judy Garland*