



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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***April 16, 2021***

We are pleased to be back in session after last week's Spring Break! As we make our return, we have a number of important updates and pieces of information for our entire school district community. This update offers the latest on our reopening plans, our efforts to build greater cultural competency, and several acknowledgements and upcoming events.

### **REOPENING FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING**

We continue to focus on increasing the level of in-person instruction we provide to students this June and August. As we do, we are working to protect the safety of our students, maintain sound fiscal discipline, and deliver a high level of quality in our educational programs.

#### **Summer Opportunities**

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.

#### **August 2021**

As we move to August, our goal is to begin the 2021-22 school year with full in-person learning across all grade levels. Families will have the option of having their children continue with virtual learning, if desired. Our detailed work plan covers a wide range of needs related to safety and security, addressing students' social/emotional health, air and water quality, transportation, nutrition and health services, technology, and personnel.

In short, we will do everything we can to keep our students and staff safe as we increase the level of in-person learning opportunities available.

I know that there has been some misinformation circulating when it comes to Banning's reopening plans. If you have any questions or need clarification on any matters, please reach out directly to district leaders. Please also note that information that does not come directly from the district may not be accurate. And, stay tuned for more of these weekly updates!

### **CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN BANNING**

In the Banning Unified School District, we believe diversity is our strength. We work collaboratively to develop respect and responsibility in our students as they prepare themselves to achieve their goals.

Our leadership team continues to engage in cultural competency training so that we have the ongoing professional learning capacity to build evidence-based equity into our school systems.

This week, we continued our learning session with rich dialogue around the *Harvard Business Review* article, "[Making Differences Matter: A New Paradigm for Managing Diversity](#)," by David A. Thomas and Robin J. Ely.

In the coming weeks, we will discuss the following articles and texts:

- "[The Power of Talk: Who Gets Heard and Why](#)," by Deborah Tannen (*Harvard Business Review*)
- "[Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#)," Beverly Daniel Tatum (Duke University)
- "[Stereotype Threat among Latino School Age Children](#)," by Hui Chu and Christia Spears Brown (*International Journal of Social Science & Humanity*)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Virtual Retirement Reception

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

### Graduation Dates

- Coombs Alternative Education: Wednesday, June 16, 2021
- Banning High School: Thursday, June 17, 2021

### Community Book Study Session

There will be a virtual meeting Tuesday, May 18, to discuss the book, *Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems*, by Joanne Quinn and Michael Fullan. The meeting will take place at 5:00 p.m. and focus on chapters 1-3. To get your free book for the session, please contact Febe Lorio at [florio@banning.k12.ca.us](mailto:florio@banning.k12.ca.us) or 951-492-8819.

### Facilities Board Study Session

This next session has been rescheduled for a date in June. More information will be available soon.

### Town Hall Meetings

There will be three upcoming town hall meetings to discuss visionary ideas to build world-class academic programming and facilities in Banning schools. Dates will be announced soon.

**"Think different."**

— Steve Jobs