



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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***March 12, 2021***

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. In this update, I share some new information on our reopening plans, provide updates about our board's study session on facilities, make several key acknowledgements, and offer some upcoming events that may be of interest to our staff, families, community, and friends.

### **UPDATES ON REOPENING**

The district is planning to reopen our schools for summer learning opportunities in an effort to help mitigate potential learning loss that has occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are finalizing plans for an extended school year and summer school, slated to begin in June. Additionally, the district is planning logistics for reopening this fall for the 2021-2022 school year.

Banning's academic leadership team will make a presentation on our reopening plans at the upcoming board meeting. 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.

In related news, the state legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 86, which provides incentives for schools to reopen in the state. At this time, we do not believe the financial benefits are worth the risk of rushing our reopening plans and compromising the quality of instruction and our health and safety protocols.

We are focused on planning for increasing our level of in-person instruction this summer and next fall. This will give us the best opportunity to ensure we maintain exceptional quality, strong health and safety standards, and sound fiscal discipline as we move forward.

### **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS**

The pandemic and its challenges have made our focus on mental health and wellness more important than ever. As part of this effort, we invite our families and staff to take part in our Staff and Student Safety, Mental Health, and Wellness Series. The virtual events cover topics like wellness, mindfulness, dealing with grief, and depression and anxiety.

For more information, visit <https://www.banning.k12.ca.us/Virtual-Learning-Information/index.html>.

### **BOARD FACILITIES STUDY SESSION**

Banning is working to examine the current state of all district facilities. Through this process, the district is looking at phases of modernization that have been deferred and how our facilities can support a world-class public education that fosters the 21st century skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. The next virtual board study session is Saturday, March 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Below are some acknowledgements and updates I would like to share:

- Our Superintendent's Student Advisory Meeting last month included some great ideas related to our return to in-person instruction. Students are eager to return, and they shared their ideas about personal protective equipment (PPE) compliance for younger students. They asked some great questions!
- Banning's staff will begin the process of growing a tree to honor the staff members we have lost this year: Lisa Acosta and Lydia Taylor. It is a tremendous way to remember these two individuals who meant so much to our school community.
- I have completed more than 20 classroom visits so far. I am so proud of our students and teachers for their commitment and focus during this time of virtual learning.
- I am thankful for our staff who are now back in our buildings. They are following our health and safety protocols, using personal protective equipment (PPE) consistently, and doing great work during this challenging time.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Some key dates to keep in mind include the following:

- **My-On Parent Training:** Wednesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. (English); 6:00 p.m. (Spanish). This is an online reading program for students.
- **Virtual Board Study Session on Facilities:** Saturday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Regular Virtual Board Meeting:** Wednesday, March 31 at 4:30 p.m.

## OUR MISSION

Banning Unified School District is a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, prepared students to achieve their full potential.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK - IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S MONTH

*"The proper measure of success is not how much you've closed the distance to some far-off goal but the quality of what you've done today" [to reach it].*

- *Sonia Sotomayor, U.S. Supreme Court Justice*