



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

March 5, 2021

In the Banning Unified School District, our mission is to be a diverse community that collaborates to develop responsible, respectful, and prepared students to achieve their full potential. To make this happen, we focus on several team values, including:

- Teamwork and collaboration
- Personal accountability
- Building trust
- Delivering results
- Communication
- Planning and organizing
- Strategic thinking

Additionally, we have set out a number of key goals for our district:

1. Accelerate Student Achievement
2. Create and Sustain Organizational Management Systems
3. Increase Parent and Community Engagement
4. Implement a Clearly Defined, Consistent Human Resources Management System
5. Maintain Fiscal Responsibility and Long-Term Financial Viability
6. Sustain and Streamline Productive Relationships with the Board of Trustees
7. Demonstrate Values-Based, Equitable and Ethical Leadership

These goals and values are driving our work as we seek to continuously improve and ensure we meet the needs of all students attending our schools.

OUR PLANS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

As we continue our planning related to reopening our schools, we do so with a focus on making the best decisions possible for our entire district community. We are working on a wide variety of evidence-based health and safety protocols while modernizing our campuses to ensure proper air ventilation and water/air filtration.

At this time, we plan to open using a strategy in which students are grouped together in small "pods." We will start with our students with special needs, providing a hybrid model that combines virtual and in-person learning. We hope to implement this model by summer.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that sports conditioning has started and COVID-19 testing opportunities for students are being established for athletes. We are partnering with SoCal Emergency Medicine Urgent Care Center/Yucaipa Urgent Care on this important effort.

VIRTUAL CLASS VISITS

I recently completed more than 20 virtual class visits with our principals. I am so impressed with the level of creativity and commitment our teachers are demonstrating. They are engaging our students in a variety of ways in a situation that is far from ideal. During these visits, I witnessed singing, critical thinking, dancing, exercising, and calculations—just to name a few. I appreciate the opportunity to see our students and staff in action!

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

As a school district, we continue to make mental health and wellness a top priority. We invite our families and staff to take part in our Staff and Student Safety, Mental Health, and Wellness Series. These virtual events cover topics like wellness, mindfulness, dealing with grief, and depression and anxiety. These topics are especially pertinent during this difficult time in our community.

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

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATES

The next BUSD School Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 31, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will take place virtually. Community members are invited to attend by visiting this link: <https://banning-k12-ca-us.zoom.us/j/89914336939?pwd=bWZtNFpoY0RyS0dRRU1BekVHaVd6UT09>.

Below are some updates from the board's February meeting:

- The board recognized the following students and staff: student Darla Orosco from Hoffer Elementary School; Mr. Brian Davis, a classified staff member in the Technology department; Mrs. Joanna Soto, a certificated staff member from Banning High School; and Lance Sanchez, executive director as community leader representing Carol's Kitchen. Our distinguished honorees are a valuable and integral part of the BUSD community.
- The board reviewed and discussed the district's [COVID-19 Safety Plan and School Reopening](#).
- [Mr. Craig Pulsipher](#) was announced as the district's next director of nutrition services. He has spent the last 10 years of his career as a director of nutrition services, registered dietician, health education manager, and nutritionist for the Moreno Valley Unified School District, a school district of over 30,000 students that serves 82,000 meals per week. Mr. Pulsipher earned a Bachelor's in Nutrition and Food Sciences from California State University, San Bernardino, and a Master's in Human Movement from A.T. Still University which specializes in osteopathic medicine - a whole person approach to medicine.

For a full board meeting update and other board-related information, please visit <https://www.banning.k12.ca.us/School-Board/>.

KEY DATES & INFORMATION

A district-wide mailer will be our residents' mailboxes starting this week. Please be on the lookout for important information related to our reopening plans and other updates.

Some key dates to keep in mind include the following:

- Virtual District Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m. Click [HERE](#)
- Meal Service Times and Locations, *Click [HERE](#)*
- Open Enrollment, *Click [HERE](#)*

***“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”
By Mahatma Gandhi***
