

Our Employees' Character Shines



Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff Members:

It is through dark times that the true character of individuals is revealed. I have been amazed how our staff and community have been a beacon of light in creating a sense of hope to assist our students and families through this pandemic crisis. I have witnessed the generosity of benefactors, such as the BQUEST Foundation, which provided 800 Visa gift cards of \$50 each to our homeless and kinship families; staff members distributing food for our neediest families; social media postings highlighting connections to learning communities whether through an uplifting video or message; and the impact of a kind phone call or email to students shared by countless staff members. I am very proud to be part of the CVESD family. We are strong together, and will come out of this even stronger.

Last week and this week have been critical to our planning efforts. At this time, the social and emotional health of our families is paramount. Although we are sending a survey to families, the return rate, at best, would be around 40 percent. During check-ins with students/families, we are encouraging staff members to ask critical questions regarding the challenges our families are facing. In particular, we need to know whether assistance with food or other survival essentials is needed and if the family has Internet access (WiFi/broadband). With this information, we can more efficiently and safely plan a timeline to deploy focused assistance in partnership with the City of Chula Vista, our Family Resource Centers, and our District Social Workers.

In the area of academics, general and special education teachers and service providers will offer students access to distance learning; keeping in mind their respective Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals, if applicable. We are directing staff to not use Zoom when interacting with students. I highly recommend the use of Microsoft Teams; However, if teachers have been using other educational platforms such as Google Classroom, that will be fine.

Remember, we are not asking general or special education students to increase their grades or take standardized tests this year to determine their abilities. We only wish they continue their learning. Again, do your best possible, but focus on alleviating the emotional toll this environment has and will continue to manifest in our students and families. I can't think of anyone better suited for this noble quest than our CVESD family.

My sincerest gratitude,

Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D.
Superintendent