

Dear Tam District Families,

We are now entering our second grading period of the year. As we move through this most unusual year, I want to thank the families and staff for all you are doing to support students and for completing our latest survey. We were able to use the data to inform our next steps. I understand how incredibly difficult this has been on all of us, especially our students who are missing out on seeing friends and engaging fully in school-based activities. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to campus and are working diligently and, in collaboration with our labor partners, to ensure our staff and campuses are prepared to safely meet the challenges of in-person learning during COVID-19.

We will remain in distance learning through the fall semester and expect to return to in-person instruction in January at the start of second semester. I understand that many of you are anxious to have students return to campus as soon as possible while others are uncertain about a transition. We are balancing the needs of many while keeping students at the center of the conversation. The decision to remain in distance learning for the fall semester is based on maintaining continuity of learning and live instruction. This decision is also in alignment with the other public high schools in the county as well as other districts such as Acalanes and Palo Alto. While learning in the distanced model is not ideal, there are no ideal solutions that will meet the needs of all students at this time.

The transition to a hybrid model is dependent upon Marin County maintaining or improving its COVID-19 numbers and the District's ability to implement all of the necessary measures to keep students and staff safe. At this time, we have some items to tend to before we can return all students to campus for in-person instruction. While many K-8 school districts and some private high schools have been able to transition to a hybrid model, our high schools' schedules and size of the populations make the transition more complex. We must ensure students can access their classes and facilities in a way that also minimizes their contact with students from other cohorts.

We currently have 14 learning centers across the district that are supporting students who need connectivity or support accessing distance learning. These learning centers have provided us insight into what challenges may arise when having more students on campus. All students will have the opportunity to come to campus, between November and December, to become familiar with navigating the spaces under the new guidelines. School sites will communicate the specifics of these opportunities in the near future.

Hybrid learning model

When students return to in-person instruction in January, students at the 3 comprehensive school sites will have three days of distance learning, two days of in-person instruction. The alternative schools (San Andreas and Tamiscal) will communicate their own return to in-person

instruction plans. While we will be bringing students back to campus to learn in-person, it will look very different than it has in the past. Students will be required to remain physically distanced while on campus, they will be required to wear a face-covering at all time except when eating, they will not be allowed to share supplies, they will not be allowed to leave campus for lunch, they will not be allowed to congregate in hallways or in other spaces on campus even during breaks and lunch. Compliance with these requirements is absolutely necessary in order for us to open schools and remain open.

Families who wish to maintain full distance learning for the spring semester will be allowed to do so, however, those students will likely be removed from their current schedules and placed into an online learning platform for their courses and will be provided guidance from district teachers. Students will be enrolled in courses that align with their current schedules but we may not be able to accommodate all current course selections in full distance learning.

Instructions for a return to campus along with cohort assignments will be sent out by each school site by December 18th. Students will be placed in cohorts mostly by alphabetical order to ensure families remain in the same cohort and for the most even split. We are not able to accommodate requests for specific cohort assignments

Sports

Fall sports registration deadline is December 1st and fall sports in Marin County will start in December, as of the most current information. Remaining in distance learning does not impact students' ability to participate in sports. For information on your student's sport, please go to the school site's website.

- [Tam High Athletics Website](#)
- [Redwood High Athletics Website](#)
- [Drake/HS 1327 Athletics Website](#)

Ongoing Preparation

The District is addressing the following items in order to open as safely as possible:

- Implementing all California and Marin County Public Health guidelines for schools including, but not limited to:
 - Creating groupings of students in order to minimize contact while on campus
 - Ensuring a passive screening system is in place to be completed by every student prior to entering campus each day
 - Ensuring campuses are set up in ways that minimize interaction such as creating 1 directional hallways and traffic patterns
 - Establishing systems for distributing food and having places for students and staff to safely eat while on campus
- Confirming COVID-19 testing for all staff on a monthly basis.
- Installing air purification systems in each classroom and office on the school premises
- Establishing a system for substitutes to be on campus to cover teacher absences

- Filling vacancies created by those staff members who are unable to return to work due to health concerns

Public Health Guidance and Information

We appreciate and value all the concerns and views that have been shared and we hope our safety plan, linked [here](#), as well as the information located on the various county, state, and federal websites can provide the information parents/guardians need to determine whether to have their student(s) return to campus or remain in full distance learning.

- [Marin County Public Health and Human Services](#)
- [Marin County Office of Education: Rethinking Schools](#)
- [California Department of Education \(CDE\): Coronavirus Response and School Reopening Guidance](#)
- [California Department of Education Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and [four-tiered, color coded system](#).

For support either with school work or social emotional wellbeing, please see the resources below.

- [Support: Marin Library Live Tutoring and Homework Help](#)
- [Virtual Counseling and Wellness Center](#)
- [Marin Healthy Youth Partnerships](#)

Thank you, again, for the support and grace during these very trying times. We have learned that circumstances can change very quickly in the face of the response to COVID-19 and we are working to be adaptable in such situations.

Tara Taupier | Superintendent
Tamalpais Union High School District