

## Update on return to in-person learning



**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

October 23, 2020

Dear Tam District Families and Staff,

We are actively preparing to return to in-person learning at the start of the second semester, on January 6th. Below, you will find information about student options for learning during the spring semester, survey results and safety protocols for when students return to our campuses.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working closely with the Marin County Office of Education, Marin County Public Health Officers, and fellow educational administrators to construct both a robust distance learning model and a hybrid learning plan. The District published our [Fall Reopening Guide](#) on July 27, 2020 along with our [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#). Each site has developed a School Site-Specific Protection Plan and prepared the sites for students to safely return to in-person learning. The decision to make the switch to a hybrid model in January was based on minimizing disruption to students' class schedules and learning outcomes to the greatest extent possible. The transition to a hybrid model will require that we make some adjustments to students' schedules in order to ensure we have enough space in each classroom. While we hope to keep the schedule shifts to a minimum, schedule changes will be necessary.

Marin County has moved into the Orange Tier (moderate). This is, most definitely, a positive sign that we are mitigating the spread of COVID-19. However, the Orange Tier designation does not change the guidelines schools must follow. Given the current public health orders, we are not able to have all students on campuses at the same time at the 3 comprehensive school sites. Therefore, students will either be divided into 2 cohorts (A and B), or 3 cohorts (A, B and C) and will rotate between days of in-person instruction and distance learning. Once we have determined whether students will be divided into 2 or 3 cohorts, we will share the schedule. The alternative school sites - Tamiscal and San Andreas - will determine and communicate their own return to in-person learning plans directly to their students and guardians. Families wishing to remain in distance learning for the spring semester will have that option. Below, please see the 3 learning model options available for students during the spring semester.

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**Options for learning during spring 2021 for the comprehensive school sites**

In-Person Learning	Synchronous Learning	Asynchronous Learning
<p>We are currently working on 2 hybrid models to accommodate students learning in-person. Due to space constraints and depending on the number of students who decide to remain fully remote, we will either have students in 2 Cohorts, A and B, or 3 Cohorts, A/B/C in a rotating schedule.</p>	<p>These students will remain in distance learning and zoom into their current classes and retain their current schedule to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<p>These students will use an on-line learning platform and work with a learning coordinator from their school site.</p>

Each school site will be gathering information from families about which option you and your student(s) is/are choosing for the spring semester. Please look for a communication from your school site on or around November 6th. We will do our best to maintain current schedules, but there will need to be some adjustments made to balance classes and provide the most even split possible. Cohort assignments will be completed by the end of the fall semester so families have time to plan prior to January 6th. Students from the same family will be kept together in Cohorts. We are not able to take requests for cohort assignment as there are too many factors to consider. Adjustments to student schedules will take effect in the spring semester.

Each school site will also communicate opportunities for students to access campuses to learn about the new protocols and guidelines prior to the end of 1st semester, in preparation for a safe return to in-person learning in January.

TUHSD will hold “return to in-person learning community conversations” via zoom in early **December from 6-7:30pm. Links will be sent the week prior to the events**

<p><b>Redwood Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>Tuesday, December 1st</p>
<p><b>HS 1327/Drake Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>Thursday, December 3rd</p>
<p><b>Tam High Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>Wednesday, December 2nd</p>
<p><b>San Andreas Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>Tuesday, December 8th</p>
<p><b>Tamiscal High Community Conversation</b></p>	<p>Tuesday, December 8th</p>

**Survey Results**

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In September, parents, students and staff were surveyed about distance learning and the transition to a hybrid model. To view the results of the parent and student survey, please click [here](#).

### **Safety Protocols**

The Tam District has published a safety plan, linked [here](#), with the Spanish language version linked [here](#). We ask that you read over the safety plan prior to the return to in-person learning. You will find the COVID-19 site liaison for each school listed on page 3. On page 15, you will find the health screening questions all students will be asked to complete each morning they will be attending school in-person. Students must complete the health screener (to be disseminated by each campus) each morning prior to entering any school building. Students will be able to complete the screener on a smartphone or their Chromebook. Any student who answers yes to any question on the screener, must stay home from school and follow the protocol established by Marin County Public Health, called “test or 10”, which is linked [here](#). Please review this protocol carefully.

It is important that students answer the daily health screener honestly and if any person living within the same household has symptoms associated with COVID-19, the “test or 10” protocols must be adhered to in order for a student to be cleared to return to in-person instruction. Students who have to quarantine will maintain access to their classes via distance learning.

### **Testing**

The District will provide on-site COVID-19 testing to all staff beginning the week of November 30th. Testing will be available at each comprehensive school site twice a month with the goal of having all staff tested at least once a month. Our goal is to open these testing opportunities to our families. We will start with staff and once we have an idea of capacity, we will make this resource available.

### **Additional safety protocols will be in place, including:**

- Masks/face coverings are required at all times while on campus except for when eating.
  - Tents and outdoors spaces will be used for all breaks and lunches during which time students will be allowed to eat.
  - Students will not be allowed to eat or unmask while inside school buildings.
  - Students should be prepared for inclement weather and dress accordingly.
  - Students should bring their own, full water bottle to school, as drinking fountains are not permitted. However, hydration stations to refill water bottles will be accessible.
  - Desks will be physically distanced in the classroom.
  - All staff and students must maintain physical distance while on campus.
  - To avoid congestion and congregating in the hallways, students will not be allowed to use lockers. Students will be required to carry their belongings during the school day.
  - Students will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering all rooms.
  - Restrooms will be limited to 25% of usual capacity
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The District has every intention of beginning the spring semester with a hybrid learning model. That plan is predicated on the spread of COVID-19 remaining stable or improving between now and January. While we cannot guarantee that things won't change for the worse, we are optimistic that Marin County will continue to move in the right direction and that we will all do our part to ensure that it does. As evidenced by another high school in our county, if some of us fail to adhere to the public health guidelines, it can impact our ability to have students attend school in person. Please continue to wear your masks, wash your hands and physically distance from those not in your bubble.

In two weeks, the District will send out an update with additional information regarding preparation for our return to in-person learning. There will be a board presentation on Tuesday, October 27th, as well. For information about how to access the board meeting, please see the website [here](#).

Tara Taupier | Superintendent  
Tamalpais Union High School District

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