July 22, 2020

Dear Columbia Middle School Students and Families:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Columbia Middle School for the 2020-2021 school year.

As we gear up for the first day of school on Monday, August 10, I want to touch base with you on a few important things. First and foremost, I want to reassure you that when the new school year begins on Monday, August 10, all students who attend Adelanto schools will be engaged in distance learning because this is the safest option for students and staff right now. We are doing our very best to offer a quality distance learning program that meets the educational and social-emotional needs of students. Unlike the remote learning that we offered students in March when schools in California suddenly closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, students will be required to participate daily, student work will be graded, and attendance will be taken Monday through Friday. Please be on the lookout for more detailed information that will be provided by our teachers.

**Here is important information to help you prepare for a successful 2020-2021 school year:**

**Enrollment and Re-registration:**

Enrollment of new students and re-registration of current students will be entirely online through the Aeries Parent Portal. Re-registration must be completed for all students returning to the District because it replaces the paper packets we ask parents to fill out at the start of every school year. Visit [https://www.aesd.net/ Administration2/centralenrollment](https://www.aesd.net/%20Administration2/centralenrollment) for more information and to get started. If you have questions and need technical assistance, please call (760)246-8691 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

* If you haven’t already done so, please take a moment to create an Aeries Parent Portal account by visiting aesd.net and select Aeries Parent/Student Portal under Parent Resources. This is where you can keep track of student attendance and academic progress. You will need an Aeries account to enroll and re-register your student(s), as well as to make changes to your student’s demographic information throughout the year (ex: parent email address or home phone number)

**Chromebook and Textbook Distribution:**

If your child does not have an electronic device with internet access, like an iPad or Chromebook, or if that device is not working, the district will provide each student in your family with a Chromebook. If your child does not have access to the internet, a limited number of hotspots will be available on a priority basis.

* + All school sites will be offering the same dates for the distribution of textbooks, Chromebooks and any necessary supplies for your student’s grade level. To maximize safety for all, this event will be done as a drive-thru. Please follow the schedule below as we are trying to minimize the numbers of students on campus at any one time for the safety of your family and our staff. If you have students at the same school in multiple grade levels and would like to pick up materials at the same time, please pick up on a make-up day.
    - Friday, July 30 from 9 to 11 a.m.
      * All middle schools: Grade 6
      * All elementary Schools: Grades 4 and 5
    - Monday, August 3 from 9-11 a.m.
      * All middle schools: Grade 7
      * All elementary schools: Grades 2 and 3
    - Tuesday, August 4 from 9 to 11 a.m.
      * All middle schools: Grade 8
      * All elementary schools: Grades Tk, Kindergarten and 1
    - Make-up days will be from Wednesday thru Friday, August 5-7
      * Schools will be open from 12 to 2 p.m.
      * Additional accommodations may be made by contacting (760) 530-1950

**Adelanto Virtual Academy (AVA)**

The Adelanto Virtual Academy (AVA) will also be enrolling students this year. AVA will offer an educational alternative to the distance learning model because it will afford a little more flexibility by allowing students to log-in and interact with their assignments 24/7 through a virtual curriculum, Acellus. At AVA, the students are supported by a teacher by taught by Acellus which is very interactive using videos, reading passages, a writing tutor and more. This is different that the distance learning that we will be providing because students will be taught and supported by their teachers using the district adopted curriculum. To enroll in AVA, please complete the enrollment form at [www.aesd.net](http://www.aesd.net). It is on the Home page under “Adelanto Virtual Academy.”

**Parent Training and Support**

The district will be offering training on how to support your child with distance learning which will include the programs that the teachers will use during distance learning. The schedule… If you have questions about parent training, please contact Academic Services at (760)246-8691.

**Breakfast and Lunch Service:**

Nutrition Services will continue providing breakfast and lunch to students twice a week at the existing meal distribution sites; Ted Vick Elementary School, Adelanto Elementary School, George Franklin Elementary School and Morgan Kincaid Elementary School. We are working to add more locations. Stay tuned for more details.

Although our school and office remain closed to the public, we will be monitoring our voicemail and look forward to hearing from you. I wish our students and teachers a productive and safe 2020-2021 school year. Thank you for entrusting us with the education of your children.

Sincerely,

Richard Upshaw, Principal

Columbia Middle School