

Good Evening Island School Parents this is Charlotte Hines your school superintendent/principal. I am calling with a lot of important information regarding the start of this school year. Thank you for being so patient in waiting for me to get all of this information to you. Please bear with me through this lengthy call. – I will also post this information on the school website, [island.k12.ca.us](http://island.k12.ca.us), for you to review if need be.

*Here we go:*

The Island School Board of Trustees and Island School staff truly want, and realize, that the best place for our students is to be in a traditional instructional setting with their teacher and peers. And our plan is to go back to that as soon as we are allowed.

That being said, right now many decisions in education are being directed by our state legislature, California Department of Public Health and the Kings County Public Health Department.

As of July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom directed all school districts in California who are on the COVID-19 county watch list to begin the 2020-2021 school year in Distance Learning. Kings County is currently on **THIS** watch list.

We may open school only once the requirements are met to be removed from THIS watch list. Once Island School is open for students to attend, the district will have their own state mandated requirements that we must follow to remain open. Rest assured if the county goes back on the watch list, that does not mean the school district would re-close, unless we, too, had a high number of positive COVID -19 cases on campus. *\*These are the guidelines we have been given as of today, but the guidelines seem to be ever changing.*

The Island School calendar has been revised with three small changes. It is located on the Island School website. First, the student start date will now be Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Second, February 8<sup>th</sup> will now be a regular school day for students and staff. Lastly, our final day of school will be Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Parents and students need to understand this Distance Learning is NOT the same as it was in the spring.

Attendance, participation and grading are now required.

While participating in Distance Learning there are several mandated requirements per Senate Bill 98.

Students must participate daily – attendance must be taken and students WILL receive grades on progress reports and report cards.

There is a minimum amount of time required per grade level per day: kindergarten 3 hours, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade 3 hours 50 minutes, 4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade 4 hours. This includes direct teaching, live and recorded, independent practice, test taking, etc.

The school is required to keep data and records on daily student engagement including participating in live sessions as well as work turned in.

Please see our Island School website to review the school re-opening plan presentation as well as our re-opening newsletter for more specifics.

Every student must have an Island School device.

Teachers will be contacting their child's families by August 8<sup>th</sup> with the specific date and time of their parent technology training/device delivery. *If you have difficulty with connectivity please contact the school office.*

To help with school to home communication we need every family to sign up for Class Dojo after you receive notification from your child's teacher. Teachers may also

be contacted through email. We also use the school messenger – all call system.

All Island School staff will be on campus working every day to ensure your child is getting the most out of distance learning. Teachers will be doing live as well as recorded lessons and instructional aides as well as teachers will be leading small groups and tutorials for students that need it, via Showbie (k-2), Zoom, or Google Classroom.

It truly does take a village for our Island School students to be successful and we appreciate our parents and their dedication, flexibility, and support through all of this.

We can do this. I believe in us.

Good bye

Charlotte Hines

Superintendent/Principal