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December 10, 2020

Dear SHUSD Parents:

Governor Gavin Newsom’s new stay-at-home order allows schools that are currently providing in-person instruction to remain open. State and local public health officials also confirmed today that schools which have already re-opened may expand in-person learning, even during the current restrictions. As a result, SHUSD students who are currently participating in distance learning are expected to return to school for in-person instruction effective Wednesday, January 6, 2021 following Winter Break.

School Principals will contact families who are currently participating in distance learning before January 6, 2021 to confirm their choice for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

Live streaming of in-person instruction will be available on a limited basis for students with approval from the site Principal under the following circumstances:

- Student is homeless and displaced due to the LNU and/or Glass Fire
- Student or household member has a valid medical reason with a doctor’s note
- Student is under quarantine due to COVID-19 symptoms, exposure, or a confirmed positive case (short term temporary measure)

In alignment with the district’s return-to-school plans, in-person instruction continues to be our primary focus. An analysis of both in-person and distance instruction over the past five weeks surfaced several academic and logistical challenges. At all grade levels students in the distance model are not engaging regularly and we are concerned about their academic and social emotional well-being. While we support and encourage all students to return to in-person instruction, we understand some families are interested in remaining in a distance-learning format. For the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, the following options for instruction are:

Grades TK-8:

- Return to school for in-person instruction beginning on Wednesday, January 6, 2021
- Seek approval from your site Principal for live streaming of in-person instruction due to one of the allowable circumstances listed above (on page 1)
- Continue in *Fuel Education* if already enrolled for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year
- Move from distance learning (with an SHUSD teacher) to *Fuel Education*, outside distance learning program and must stay in *Fuel Education* through the end of the school year

Grades 9-12:

- Return to school for in-person instruction beginning on Wednesday, January 6, 2021
- Seek approval from your site Principal for live streaming of in-person instruction due to one of the allowable circumstances listed above (on page 1)
- Continue in *Fuel Education* if already enrolled for the remainder of the school 2020-21 year
- Continue or enroll in *Apex Learning* courses (online Independent Study program monitored by SHUSD staff) for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year

Families who are currently attending school in-person and are interested in switching to a distance learning option for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year (*Fuel Education* or *Apex Learning* only) may contact their school Principal for more information. Please note that we do not anticipate increasing the amount of instructional time offered for in-person instruction this year.

Our safety protocols are working and the number of positive cases among SHUSD students and staff is very low. Visit our website at [www.sthelenauunified.org](http://www.sthelenauunified.org) for more information about current positive cases, our health/safety protocols, and additional resources about the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are monitoring state and local orders and guidelines and will continue to update you on information that impacts our school community.

We are proud of all our students, families and staff for the strength and resilience they have demonstrated during the first half of this incredibly challenging school year. Your flexibility in making decisions for your children through December 2020 and now for the second semester is appreciated. We look forward to better times ahead for everyone in the SHUSD community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marylou Wilson, Superintendent