

Dear Rocketeers Families,

On Friday, Governor Newsom issued new guidance for reopening schools: schools located in counties on the COVID-19 monitoring list are not permitted to reopen until local health conditions improve. Counties across the Bay Area are on the state's monitoring list. In accordance with this new guidance, we regret to announce that we can no longer implement the “hybrid model” reopening plan we shared on July 10.

All Rocketship schools will now start the school year in full-time distance learning.

We understand that many parents and Rocketeers are eager to return to school. We are too. Unfortunately, with COVID-19 infection rates rapidly rising again, it has become clear that California does not have control of this health crisis. We are hopeful that health conditions improve again and we can begin to phase-in a return to in-person learning.

Distance Learning Plus

The distance learning model we launched last March [showcased](#) our commitment to our community and the innovative spirit of our educators. As we prepare to start the 2020-21 school year in distance learning again, we will build on the strengths of the model we developed last spring and implement new features to further enhance student learning at home.

3 Hours Daily Live Teaching. We are increasing daily live teaching for students to an average of 3 hours per day. As we learned last spring, daily blocks of live teaching are critical to promote student engagement, social emotional development, and interaction with classmates. Specific schedules will differ by campus, grade, and student need.

Small Group Instruction. Small group instruction is a key component to our personalized learning model when students are in classrooms. Our enhanced distance learning model will build on this practice and provide small group instruction on a daily basis to ensure we continue to meet the individual needs of each and every Rocketeer.

On-Demand Learning. We fully understand that full-time distance learning places a significant burden on parents and caregivers to help facilitate student learning at home. We will continue to produce recorded content for our Rocketeers and leverage our adaptive online learning programs and Rocketship Goals platform to support independent learning that can adapt to the schedule of your family. Every Friday will be a full day of on-demand and independent student learning.

Daily Schedule

Attached to this update is a sample schedule for your Rocketeer's distance learning school day. Specific schedules will vary by school and grade level but the sample provided here should give you a general idea of what to expect when school starts on August 12.

For students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), we will provide robust inclusion and small group instruction aligned with the needs outlined in your child's IEP. Special education teams will continue to collaborate with families on specific needs and services and will follow up with each family individually.

Community Meetings

We are offering families three virtual community meetings this week to discuss our distance learning plan and answer your questions. These meetings are optional and the discussion will be the same at each so you only need to participate in one meeting.

- Meeting 1: **Thursday, July 23rd @ 5:30 pm**
- Meeting 2: **Friday, July 24th @ 12:15 pm**
- Meeting 3: **Friday, July 24th @ 2:00 pm**

We remain committed to starting our school year strong. No matter where student learning takes place, we will continue to provide your Rocketeer with the excellent education that they deserve. And while we were all hoping to be able to safely reopen our campuses in August, this health crisis will not weaken our resolve to ensure the 2020-21 school year is another year full of learning, growth, community, and progress in our fight for social justice and educational equity.

Thank you for partnership and thank you for entrusting us to serve your Rocketeer(s). Your principal will be sharing more detailed information about your school specific plans over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Maricela Guerrero,
Vice President of Schools

Kylie Alsofrom
Director of Schools, Bay Area

SAMPLE DISTANCE LEARNING SCHEDULE 2020-2021 School Year	
8:00 am	Live Launch!
8:10 am	Social emotional learning lesson --- <i>live instruction</i>
8:45 am	Read aloud --- <i>live instruction</i>
9:00 am	Phonics lesson --- <i>small group live instruction</i>
9:20 am	Phonics independent practice
9:40 am	Movement break!
10:10 am	Snack time!
10:20 am	STEM lesson --- <i>live instruction</i>
11:00 am	Online learning programs
11:30 am	Lunch time!
12:30 pm	Enrichment --- <i>live instruction</i>
1:00 pm	Online learning programs
1:30 pm	Guided reading --- <i>live instruction</i>
2:00 pm	Movement break!
2:20 pm	Small group tutoring
2:40 pm	Social emotional check in
3:00 pm	Live Landing!