

# #WeAreCarmelUnified

From the Office of the Superintendent Barb Dill-Varga, Ed.D.



March 23, 2020 - "Meeting the Moment"- Edition #2

## SCHOOL CLOSURE EXTENDED

No one knows for sure how long public schools must remain closed as we all try to "flatten the curve" and slow the rate of the spread of the coronavirus. What we can say with some certainty is that **we are going to be physically closed at least through April 19, 2020, the conclusion of our week of spring break.**

To summarize:

**\*School will be in session remotely through Friday, April 10, 2020.**

**\*School will recess for our week of spring break from April 13-17, 2020.**

**\*Schools are planning to resume on Monday, April 20, 2020.** As we get closer to this date, we will message out if we will continue to serve students in this remote/alternative fashion. We may also have more definitive information from our county and state offices by that point in time.

## Free Meals

Today, we began our first grab and go breakfast and lunch program. As with all new endeavors, we learned some things to help us make improvements. Refer to the CUSD website for a weekly menu and updates to the program.

## Tech Support

Did you know that the district's wifi is available at the school sites, including Carmelo Child Development Center? If your internet is slow, feel free to drive up to one of our parking lots to download materials or complete an assignment.

On Wednesday, we are planning to deliver Chromebooks to students who need them, with a priority on secondary students. Please use [this survey](#) to identify your need and we will reach out to make arrangements for pickup.

## District Office is Working Remotely

Our district office is available to assist you from our remote locations. Please use email to contact us!

### Human Resources Office Point of Contacts:

Classified: Geri Simmons [gsimmons@carmelunified.org](mailto:gsimmons@carmelunified.org)  
Certificated: Kristen Quilty [kquilty@carmelunified.org](mailto:kquilty@carmelunified.org)

### Business Office Point of Contact:

Kathy Vance [kvance@carmelunified.org](mailto:kvance@carmelunified.org)

### Technology Office/Student Services Point of Contact:

Anna Medina [amedina@carmelunified.org](mailto:amedina@carmelunified.org)

### Curriculum + Instruction Point of Contact:

Michelle Mahaney [mmahaney@carmelunified.org](mailto:mmahaney@carmelunified.org)

### Special Education Point of Contact:

Sharon Setliff [sseliff@carmelunified.org](mailto:ssetliff@carmelunified.org)

### Superintendent's Office Point of Contact:

Tricia Zarevich [tzarevich@carmelunified.org](mailto:tzarevich@carmelunified.org)

**\*\* If you are not sure and need guidance please contact Tricia Zarevich [tzarevich@carmelunified.org](mailto:tzarevich@carmelunified.org) and she will direct it accordingly.**

## Mental Wellness During the Closure

Your health and safety is our number one priority. Below are some resources for you and your family to view or access if you are in need:

Talking to kids about the Coronavirus:

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks:  
<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4885.pdf>

County of Monterey Behavioral Health Department:  
<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/behavioral-health>

AIM Youth Mental Health

[Resources from AIM](#) -Lindsley, Knight, Events and Community Engagement Manager, shared vital resources to support our community.

## Supporting our Students with Special Needs

Our special education teachers and itinerant providers (e.g., Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Educationally Related Mental Health Provider, and Behavior Support Provider), have been working diligently on a plan to provide continuous remote services for students with disabilities.

Services will be provided in the form of modified packets, teletherapy, video platforms, and/or consultation over the phone. All services will be documented in our special education information system.

Our special education staff will be checking in frequently with families and students during the closure. Meetings or assessments that were in process will now be deferred until school resumes. If you have any questions, you may continue to contact the Department of Special Education at (831) 624-1546, ext. 2010.

## Board Meetings

We are working on the platform for the next board meeting to support our next **April 29, 2020** board meeting should we still be remote. We will send out information about how to participate in the meeting as that is solidified and our website will be updated. If we are not working remotely, the meeting is currently scheduled for CMS P-1.

## Final Thoughts:

*Unprecedented* is a word I have heard more frequently in the last week than in perhaps the last few years. Yes, these events brought on by Covid-19 are “unprecedented” and yes, we will be tested to see what we are made of, but while we inevitably will make some mistakes as we work together figuring out solutions, I can make you one promise. This district is filled with individuals who love your children, love and respect each other, and we will do our utmost to show that in the coming days. The learning will follow. The student achievement will still be there when this is over. But our signature attribute is about making sure our students are safe and cared for. Please continue to practice all the rules of social distancing and help your children find some calm and even moments of joy and laughter. They are our future and our collective treasure. Keeping you in my thoughts, Barb

## Taking the Edge off of “Shelter in Place”

**CARMEL PUBLIC LIBRARY** wants you to know...

There are some great student resources from the Carmel Public Library that can be used from home. You can find these and more on the [Library webpage](#). Most require a library card number. If you don't already have a card, you can [sign up online](#).

[Here's a link](#) to some exciting resources for you and your children to access!

*Jean Chapin, Head of Reference*  
Carmel Public Library  
(831) 624-4629  
[ci.carmel.ca.us/library](http://ci.carmel.ca.us/library)

**For Adults - We need some support, too! As recommended by one of our middle school counselors!**

Yale's massively popular 'happiness' course is available free online. During the Covid-19 pandemic, you might be able to find solace in Yale University's mega-popular "happiness" course, which is being offered for free online through Coursera.

[Read in CNN:](#)  
[https://apple.news/AuHv8raarQNuUky\\_WP8NEww](https://apple.news/AuHv8raarQNuUky_WP8NEww)

**Next Newsletter: Friday, March 27, 2020**