



PALO VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Blythe, California

School Reopening Plan

Guidelines, Resources, and Best Practices for the Safe Reopening of
Palo Verde Unified School District Schools in COVID-19 Conditions
Subject to revision. Updated 2/8/2021

GOVERNING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mrs. Jamey Mullion	President
Mr. Alfonso Hernandez	Vice-President
Mrs. Martha Gutierrez	Clerk
Dr. Norman C. Guith	Member
Mrs. Diana Esquibel Mendez	Member

DISTRICT CABINET ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Tracie Kern	Superintendent
Mr. Meliton Sanchez	Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Mrs. April Smith	Director of Human Resources
Ms. Lois Shaffer	Director of Data, Assessment and Accountability
Mr. Edward Singh	Director of Special Services

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Karina De La Pena, Principal	Felix J. Appleby Elementary
Mrs. Cintia Robinson, Principal	Ruth Brown Elementary
Mr. Stephen Romines, Principal	Margaret White Elementary
Ms. Rachel Angel, Principal	Palo Verde High School
Mrs. Judy Browder, Principal	Twin Palms Continuation High School
Ms. Cindy Floyd, Coordinator	Palo Verde Head Start
Mr. Edward Singh, Administrator	Special Education Preschool

Palo Verde Unified School District
825 North Lovekin
Blythe, California 92225
Phone 760.922.4164 ● Fax 760.922.5942

INTRODUCTION

PVUSD Reopening Plan

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and willingness to pivot with us during these most challenging of circumstances.

This document has evolved over the recent months and has been revised based on changing public health guidelines, input from our reopening planning committees, staff, families, and ongoing reviews. With this collaboration and open communication, your ideas and insights have been helpful as we continue to move forward in our planning.

Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD) staff continue to work diligently within and across departments to develop plans to safely and effectively reopen our schools.

In light of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines, the COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework and Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2-21 School Year (January 14, 2021) and the most recent Riverside County Public Health Orders, this document serves to provide PVUSD schools and families with information related to the return to instruction and the safe reopening of school facilities in the 2020-2021 school year.

Please note that this document is based on current knowledge, and will continue to be updated based on information from the California Department of Public Health and Riverside County Public Health orders.

We know there are unique challenges facing each school site and their respective communities. It is the hope of PVUSD that this School Reopening Plan will provide our stakeholders with ongoing information and transparent planning in an ever-changing, rapidly evolving landscape. We know this school year will look different and will require adjustments and flexibility. Our ultimate goal is to ensure a safe return to instruction and to continue to provide a healthy learning environment for each and every student.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PVUSD Reopening Plan

Guiding Principles	4
Learning Models	5
Health and Safety	6
● Screening at Home	6
● Arriving at School	7
● Testing of Student and Staff	7
● Established Protocols if a Temperature of 100.4 Degrees Fahrenheit or Higher is Detected	8
● PPE and Protocols	9
● Maintenance and Operations	11
● Nutrition Services	14
● COVID-19 Exposure on Campus Protocol	16
● Considerations for Partial or Total School Closure	17
Social Emotional Supports	19
● Head Start and Special Education Preschool	19
● Elementary TK-8	21
● Secondary 9-12	25
Stay Connected	30

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For Opening School Safely

OUR PRIORITY


Ensure students and staff confidently return to a safe environment conducive for learning and work.

The following guiding principles drive the work of PVUSD's Governing Board of Trustees, administrators, teachers and staff to ensure a safe 2020-2021 school year for all:

- ❖ Follow Public Health guidelines
- ❖ Maintain District values and priorities
- ❖ Establish systematic protocols
- ❖ Provide timely and transparent communication

LEARNING MODELS

The Triad Approach



Improving Learning... Together!

Return • To • Learn • at • PVUSD

2020-21 Learning Options for Families with the Triad Approach

PVUSD's Return to Learn Model allows three choices for student learning. Safety and health guidelines will determine space availability at each school.

TRADITIONAL	Students come back to in-person learning with their teacher and classmates. The traditional model will have enhanced safety measures, such as having students remain with the same learning group throughout the day to reduce student-to-student interactions. Additional daily safety practices by staff and students consist of daily temperature checks, wearing face coverings, social distancing, frequent hand washing and increased disinfection of surfaces.
HYBRID	Students come back to school two full days per week (Traditional) and three days a week (Teacher-Led Distance Learning). For example, on Tuesday and Thursday the student will come to school; on Monday, Wednesday and Friday the student will be home learning from their teacher using the online learning platform. This allows students to learn through computer-based virtual lessons, activities, and videos. Teachers can take attendance, grade and communicate with their students. Teachers will direct/guide and assign the distance learning assignments, and provide feedback on their learning through Acellus, Google Classroom and Zoom Education. Students will also be provided a school Chromebook to take home.
TEACHER-LED DISTANCE LEARNING	Students will be taught by their teacher while remaining at home. The teacher is responsible for student learning and will instruct, assign, provide feedback, and assess student learning. Teachers and students will use Acellus, Google Classroom and Zoom Education. Students will be provided a school Chromebook to access their teacher directed virtual learning while they are at home.

PVUSD ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

All students will have access to all online learning platforms using any of the Triad Approach options

GOOGLE CLASSROOM: Online Google Classroom enhances teaching and learning for students through access to their assignments and increased teacher and student online collaboration and communication. Teachers create classes, distribute assignments, provide feedback and grades to students through Google Classroom.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEFqW-9D8t4>

ZOOM EDUCATE: Online virtual audio/video communication allowing teachers to take attendance, teach and support learning, and communicate with their students. Zoom Educate allows for the virtual, face-to-face learning and communication between teacher and student needed for the hybrid and teacher-led distance learning options.
<https://blog.zoom.us/how-to-use-zoom-on-a-chromebook/>

CHROMEBOOKS

PVUSD will provide all students Chromebooks to take home. Students will checkout their Chromebook for the school year and will be responsible for the proper care of their Chromebook. We are expecting students to care for their Chromebook the same as they would for their textbook and library book.

Palo Verde Unified School District will re-open implementing public health recommendations.

HEALTH and SAFETY

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO IN-PERSON or HYBRID TEACHING AND LEARNING

Upon return, school will look different.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost importance. Due to new health and safety measures set forth by the County of Riverside and the California Department of Public Health, the 2020-21 school year will look much different than in previous years. PVUSD will continue to focus on academic instruction as well as the programs that are crucial for the mental, social emotional, and physical wellbeing of students.

Screening at home:

- Students are required to self-screen for symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, runny nose and fever at home before coming to school.
- Anyone with a fever of 100.4°F or more should not go to a school site. Those experiencing symptoms including persistent cough, shortness of breath, or runny nose should not attend school, even if no fever is present. Staff members are required to self-screen and complete a daily temperature check prior to entering any PVUSD site.
- Here is a full listing of COVID-19 symptoms from the CDC Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19 (December 14, 2020):
 - Fever or Chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or Body Aches
 - Headache
 - New Loss of Taste or Smell
 - Sore Throat
 - Congestion or Runny Nose
 - Nausea or Vomiting
 - Diarrhea



Arriving at school:

- Arrival/departure times and campus entry points will be managed to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Schools will use arrows on the ground, signage, and similar ways to teach student Cohorts how to enter, exit, and move around the campus while avoiding contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the Cohort. Parents and other visitors will not be allowed to enter the campus so as to avoid contact.

- Students will be kept in A-B Cohort groups of no more than 17 student per Cohort at the elementary schools and at the continuation school. These small, stable student groups with fixed membership will stay together for all in-person activities, including classroom instruction, lunch, and recess. Each student Cohort will avoid contact with other groups or individuals who are not part of the Cohort. Stable Student Groups could be larger at the comprehensive high school, with numbers of 100 or less.

- Physical barriers have been installed in areas where face-to-face interaction with the public occurs.

- School sites have signage throughout campus to encourage physical distancing and proper sanitation.

- Staff will be tested regularly, in compliance with CDPH guidelines. Schools are required to have a surveillance testing plan to test all staff on a regular basis. The test must be a PCR Test.

Testing of students and staff

- The following testing cadence will be followed with support from the State of California for K-12 schools:
- Purple Tier (Widespread) with an adjusted case rate of between 14 and 28 cases per 100,000: Symptomatic and response testing plus weekly asymptomatic PCR testing.
- Purple Tier (Widespread) with an adjusted case rate of between 7.1 and 13.9 cases per 100,000: Symptomatic and response testing plus asymptomatic PCR testing every two weeks.
- Red Tier (Substantial) with an adjusted case rate of between 4 and 7 cases per 100,000: Symptomatic and response testing.
- Orange Tier (Moderate) with an adjusted case rate of between 1 and 3.9 cases per 100,000: Symptomatic and response testing.
- Yellow Tier (Minimal) with an adjusted case rate of less than 1 case per 100,000: Symptomatic and response testing.
- PVUSD will continue providing Staff Training and Family Education so that staff and families are educated on the application and enforcement of the School Reopening Plan and the COVID-Prevention Plan as updates are made.

**ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS
IF A TEMPERATURE
OF 100.4°F OR HIGHER
IS DETECTED:**



- Students and staff with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher will not be admitted and shall be sent home.
- Notify a health care provider if COVID-19 symptoms are present.
- Notify the school administration of any positive COVID-19 test results.
- School will notify health officials, staff and families of any positive cases. Confidentiality will be maintained.
- If a student develops a fever while at school, the student will be isolated from other students and the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick the student up. Please ensure you provide your school site with current contact information.
- Sick staff and students will be advised to isolate according to CDC and local Public Health guidelines.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT and PROTOCOLS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO IN-PERSON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Hand Hygiene

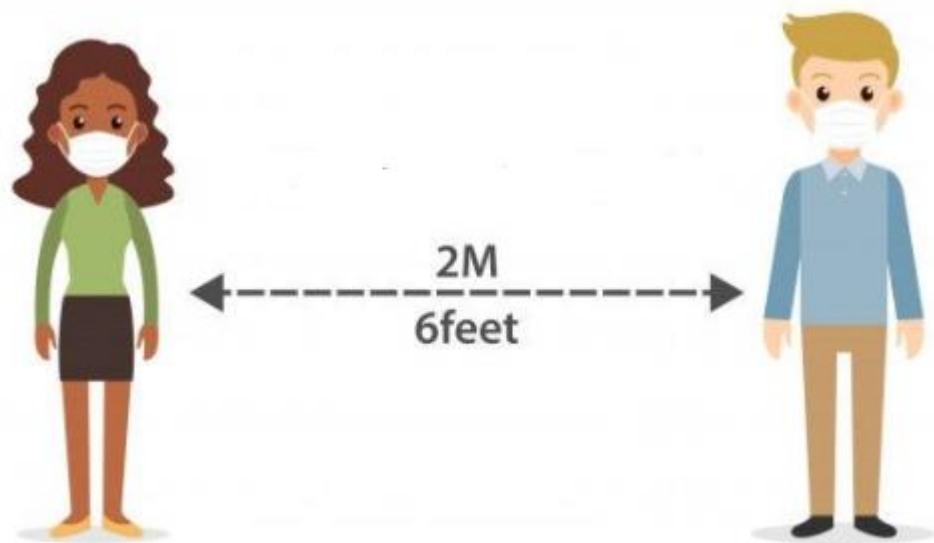
- Staff have been trained on proper hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of hand sanitizer (CDC: Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives).
- Students will be trained on proper hand hygiene, including hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Students will be instructed to wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival at campus gates and reinforced daily with time allotted to wash hands regularly.
- Touchless hand sanitizer will be available at all school sites and all classrooms have sinks or hand sanitizing stations.
- Schools will limit sharing of supplies.
- Visual reminders are posted for staff and students.

Facial coverings

- On school grounds, the CDPH guidance requires that students and staff wear a face covering both indoors and outdoors regardless of social distancing. The covering may be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, and outdoor recreation, but should be used at all other times unless there is a medical exemption.
- In all PVUSD schools, facial coverings are required (unless meeting the exemption requirements established by Riverside County Public Health) for all students, staff members and visitors (once allowed).
- People exempt from wearing a face covering should wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge as long as their condition permits it and maintain six feet of social distance.
- Students will be instructed on proper face covering protocols. Parents are asked to familiarize their children with the use of cloth facial coverings. Students without masks will be provided one.
- Visual reminders are posted for staff and students.

Physical Distancing

- Schools campuses have developed contingency plans to support physical distancing, such as removing excess furniture in classrooms and mapping for traffic flow for students on campus.
- Schools redesigned spaces with physical distancing in mind, which may include instruction outdoors or in larger areas and one-way traffic flow in hallways.
- Student work spaces have been arranged with consideration for maximum physical distancing, following public health recommendations.
- Teacher and other staff work spaces have been distanced at least six feet away from student desks.
- No visitors are allowed on campus.
- Group activities will be significantly limited, and off-site field trips are suspended.
- Visual reminders are posted around campus.



MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Safety Equipment

PVUSD has committed to securing additional safety equipment to maintain the cleanliness of campuses, including but not limited to:

✓ HAND SANITIZING STATIONS

Hand sanitizing stations have been installed and are located in common areas such as lunch areas, front offices, and priority locations identified by the staff.

✓ PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STAFF

All students and staff are required to wear face coverings unless prevented due to health conditions or instructional/communication needs. Additional disposable masks and gloves are also available, as needed.

✓ MERV 11 FILTERS AT ALL CAMPUSES

The District has installed highly rated Merv 11 filters in each HVAC unit. HVAC systems are scheduled to run at least an hour before and after school.

✓ DISINFECTING SURFACES

PVUSD schools have cleaners available for use districtwide. Detailed attention will be given to high-touch areas such as door handles, desktops, sink handles, handrails and restrooms throughout the day.

Six Steps for Properly Cleaning and Disinfecting Your School

Protect Your School Against COVID-19

Properly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects can help safely and effectively reduce the spread of disease in your school or facility. Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

- ✓ Always wear gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the chemicals being used. The PPE may include eye protection.
- ✓ Cleaning and disinfection products should not be used by or near students.
- ✓ Make sure that there is adequate ventilation (air flow) when using chemical products to prevent yourself or others from inhaling toxic vapors.



Step 1:
Visit [epa.gov/listn](https://www.epa.gov/listn) or scan the QR code with your smart phone to see EPA's list of approved disinfectants



Step 2:
Follow the directions on the label carefully.



Step 3:
Clean surfaces and determine how areas will be disinfected.



Step 4:
Follow the contact time shown on the label.



Step 5:
Throw away gloves after cleaning and disinfection. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Step 6:
Store chemicals in a secure location away from students' reach and sight.



03/2019-01/11/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/Six-Steps-for-Cleaning-Disinfecting-school.pdf>

Other Safety Considerations...

- ✓ Breaks, recesses, and lunch will be staggered as feasible to allow maximum physical distancing.
- ✓ Restrooms are cleaned and re-stocked with soap and paper products throughout the day.
- ✓ Disinfecting sprays and/or disinfecting supplies are available at every site.
- ✓ Campuses follow guidelines developed by the CDPH for cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation of school sites.
- ✓ Drinking fountains will be disabled. Students should bring their own water bottles and may refill their bottles at water filling stations on campus.
- ✓ Paper towels are available for use in restrooms.

NUTRITION SERVICES

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN RETURNING TO IN-PERSON TEACHING AND LEARNING

STUDENT MEALS FOR ON-CAMPUS AND DISTANCE LEARNING

PVUSD Nutrition Services is committed to meeting the nutritional needs of each and every student during the 2020-21 school year. Nutrition Services has developed, and will adhere to, the following measures to ensure the overall health and safety of students who rely on PVUSD's meal service. Nutrition Services staff will follow safety guidelines set forth by the California Department of Public Health for handwashing, proper sanitation of work stations, physical distancing, and face coverings.



On-Campus meals:

- Provide contact-free meal service to protect students and employees.
- Serve meals using student eligibility categories (Free, Reduced Price, and Paid).
- Eliminate self-service stations and use individually packaged foods.
- Implement cashless transactions and emphasize prepayment for meals.
- Stagger meal times as feasible to allow for cleaning between meal services, and to eliminate long lines and overcrowding.

Bulk Meals

- The elementary schools have established meal serving hours for distance learning students.
- Provide curbside meal distribution service depending on staff availability and meal serving schedules.
- Reinforce health and safety protocols, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing facial coverings, gloves, and aprons.
- Provide bulk meals for consumption at home.
- PVUSD may add additional meal distribution methods and sites as needed.

Other safety protocols for meal distribution on campus:

- Sites have assigned spaces for lunch (as needed) to ensure physical distancing in outdoor lunch areas.
- Sites will dismiss students to go to lunch in a method to maintain physical distancing, as possible.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to entering the lunch area.
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to re-entering classrooms.
- Touchless hand sanitizing dispensers are located in lunch areas.



COVID-19 PROTOCOL & NOTIFICATION

California Department of Public Health

Protocols for when a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, is in contact with someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19. The following steps have been provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

	Student or Staff	Action
1	Tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 after symptoms (must be PCR viral test, not antigen or antibody test) or Presumed POSITIVE (without test) with a note from MD/DO/NP/PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee/Parent notifies supervisor or school site of positive test <input type="checkbox"/> May return to work/school 10 days after symptom onset or test date AND 24 hours without fever (no meds) AND symptoms are improving. Re-testing with a negative result is not required prior to return. Close contacts (†) quarantine for 14 days from date of last exposure. Cohort (††) quarantine decisions will be made with public health department guidance. District notifies the school community of a known positive case (identity must remain CONFIDENTIAL). School closure decisions will be made based on the number of cases, the percentage of students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, results from public health investigation, other local epidemiological data, and following consultation with the local Health Officer.
2	Tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19 after symptoms (must be PCR viral test, not antigen or antibody test)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May return 72 hours after symptoms resolve
3	Was not tested after having COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May return 10 days from symptom onset AND 24 hours without fever (no meds) AND symptoms are improving.
4	Has a chronic condition causing the COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed documentation from a licensed MD/DO/NP/PA (who manages that condition) must: confirm the chronic diagnosis, include provider's contact information, explain how symptoms are unrelated to COVID-19 For students, documentation must be accompanied by a signed consent for school to interact with MD/DO/NP/PA May return to work/school immediately with required documentation Disregard symptoms if school personnel are already aware of a chronic, pre-existing condition that causes the symptom(s). The nature of the presenting symptom(s) must be consistent with the underlying chronic condition.

(†) Close Contact: contact with a COVID-19 patient that occurs anywhere between 48 hours before the COVID-19 patient's symptoms began, and until the COVID-19 patient is no longer required to be isolated, and where they 1) were within 6 feet of a COVID-19 patient for more than 15 minutes or 2) had unprotected contact with body fluids and/or secretions (including, but not limited to, being coughed on or sneezed on, sharing utensils, or drinking out of the same container) of a COVID-19 patient. In some school situations it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed, particularly if people have spent time together indoors.

(††) Cohort: stable group with fixed membership that stays together for all courses and activities (e.g. lunch, recess, etc.) and avoids contact with other persons or cohorts.

CONSIDERATIONS for PARTIAL or TOTAL CLOSURE

Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health

When staff members or students test positive for COVID-19, the District will contact the Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health. Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health will help the school determine if the classroom, cohort, or school needs to be closed. Any school or District closure will be determined by Riverside University Health Systems – Public Health.



WHAT HAPPENS TO LEARNING IF A CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL CLOSES?

If a classroom cohort or school needs to close, the students move to teacher-led distance learning with their existing teacher until they can return back to campus. When cleared to return, the students and teacher resume their on-campus learning in person.

Exposure Follow-Up

Student or Staff with	Action	Communication
1 COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g. diarrhea, fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Send Home <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend testing (if positive, see #3, if negative, see #4) <input type="checkbox"/> School/classroom remain open 	No Action Needed
2 Close Contact (+) with a confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send Home • Quarantine for 14 days from last exposure • Refer exposed persons for COVID-19 testing at least 5 days after exposure. A negative test will not shorten the 14-day quarantine • School/remain open 	Consider school community notification of a potential exposure
3 Confirmed COVID-19 case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Notify the public health department <input type="checkbox"/> Exclude from school for 10 days from last positive test <input type="checkbox"/> Identify close contacts. Instruct to quarantine for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals in primary spaces where case spent significant time <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfect and clean classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time <input type="checkbox"/> Schools remain open unless closure instituted by Superintendent or Public Health Officer Order 	School community notification of known case
4 Negative PCR Test on Symptomatic Student or Staff Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May return to school after symptoms resolve, if no fever without using fever reducing medication within 24 hours • Schools/classroom remain open 	Consider school community notification if prior awareness of testing

DISTRICT SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

HEAD START AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL LEVEL

As we continue through this new school year with ongoing uncertainty, disruption to school routines, and continued restrictions on the social interactions that sustain us all, the PVUSD Head Start knows how critically important it is to provide social and emotional supports for our students, families and staff. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is the *work* of Early Childhood, but it is more critical than ever in these disrupted times. Although we have adapted our programming during Distance Learning, our commitment to offering comprehensive SEL instruction and to creating warm, welcoming environments where students, families and staff feel connected is certainly our current priority. For this reason the first six weeks when we returned, our classroom teachers focused almost solely on building connections within their classrooms. Teachers used a *Trauma Informed Approach* to address many of the issues families are going through during this time. This includes starting slowly (warming back up to school in this new format a little at a time), creating predictability and consistency with clear (visual) schedules for our Live meetings and daily instruction, intentional relationship and community building, and addressing the feelings of the families each day, including supportive feedback to reduce negative thinking.



Our Social-Emotional Curriculum, *Second Step*, will also continue to be a huge piece of daily instruction that the children receive, to promote healthy expression and regulation of emotions. Families receive "Home Links" that describe the activities completed and their purpose each week. This also includes ways for families to reinforce the concepts at home through modeling and practice.

Head Start offers Mental Health Support services from a district MFT consultant for any student, family or staff member experiencing extreme stress or otherwise needing help with coping skills during this time. A parent or child can be referred by a teacher or request services themselves. Any family that experienced high levels of stress in the previous school year was automatically offered continued support for the current school year. Head Start also has an on-site School Counselor who will be offering our families resources and connection opportunities through a series of virtual parenting classes and other parent connection groups.

We recognize how our staff have also been impacted by our current situation, and supporting our staff is also a priority. We know they need the connections and tools so that they can provide the high quality educational experience that Head Start expects, while also being able to be a support to the child and their families. In order to provide staff/peer connection our program has created smaller teams for peer group (virtual) training and meetings. We have implemented morale boosting activities that can be done safely and we are in the process of creating staff (virtual) *Wellness Wednesdays* with bonding and self-care activities and a site for self-care resources. The Head Start MFT consultant also began checking in with staff before the program started and continues to check in at regular intervals. In addition to support for students, the PVUSD Head Start School Counselor provides staff support with everyday frustrations and assists with the implementation of the Second Step SEL curriculum.

Our goal is to help students, families, and staff feel heard, cared for, and connected so that together we can create a different, but meaningful, educational experience where children can continue to learn and grow!

We didn't plan for this trip, but we are learning to embrace the journey together.

DISTRICT SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL TK-8

In these times of uncertainty due to the current pandemic, the Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD) has held steadfastly to its commitment of enriching, empowering and enhancing our students' lives through education. District leaders and community stakeholders

recognized early during this crisis the importance of bolstering social and emotional support for students, families, and staff members. They communicated swiftly important goals and information about the critical need to reach out to students and their families during this period of school closure, social distancing, and distance learning.



PVUSD's administrative and student support teams

discuss and plan for providing social-emotional assistance to students, parents, and staff members. School counselors, special education case managers, mental health therapists, and school psychologists have met weekly to collaborate and share Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities and resources to keep our students and families motivated, engaged, and socially connected to our schools. In turn, PVUSD has carefully created opportunities for students, parents, and staff members to stay connected to their school communities and access the resources they need.

Using a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, school administrative and support teams have emphasized cooperation, uniformity, and consistency across schools in the district to ensure that the community receives immediate, accurate, and clear information about available SEL resources and supports based on the CASEL (Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning) framework of five core competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social-awareness, Relationship skills and Responsible decision making . Principals and support teams have communicated to their teaching staff the importance of SEL and implementing Tier 1 strategies into their virtual online instruction. From the start of this school year, teachers have worked diligently to build connections with their students and within their classrooms. Furthermore, our teachers and school support personnel were offered training opportunities (sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education and the Riverside County SELPA) on supporting parents and families virtually. Additional workshops have been offered on Universal Design Instruction (UDL), which have emphasized the provision of equitable access to instruction and services, as well as SEL for our students and families, especially during these critical times.



Our teachers and support staff are aware of the challenges that our students are facing, such as isolation, loneliness, anxiety, fear, and depression. Accordingly, to allow students to be heard and feel cared for, PVUSD schools are holding monthly virtual assemblies in which we continue to teach key character traits and recognize students for their school engagement and achievement. Our school teams are celebrating student and teacher successes during “morning announcements” and on our school web and social media sites. These activities have reinforced student attendance and as well as student and family



school engagement, strengthened links to our schools.

Concurrently, we use online platforms such as Google Classroom to connect with counseling offices to digitally refer support services to access counselors

continue to utilize such as Google Classroom to create virtual counseling offices that allow teachers to refer students for support services and allow students to access counselors virtually. Our

school counselors continue to provide counseling and therapeutic interventions using telehealth procedures. They provide crisis interventions virtually as needed, according to the protocols provided by the Riverside County SELPA. Regularly, school administrative teams are making virtual and in-person home visits (with all the COVID-19 precautions and protocols) to clarify expectations about school engagement, reinforce appropriate use of technology, and provide information about accessing SEL resources and supports. We also use technology alert systems (e. g., BARK, Go Guardian) to assist with monitoring online student activity that may require crisis intervention, anti-bullying measures, and conflict resolution.

Additionally, our schools have sponsored kick-off programs to foster community unity and reinforce SEL skills. For example, our schools have taken part in anti-violence and anti-drug awareness activities using *Start with Hello* and *Red Ribbon Week*, two programs that teach and foster social connections, empathy, and making healthy choices for dealing with stress. Our schools also promote virtual “lunch-bunch” groups and school-wide incentives programs. PVUSD recognizes the importance of self-care not only for our students, but for our teachers and support personnel. We have created forums for educators to express their concerns and successes. For example, our schools hold regular “Virtual Coffee House” hours, and sponsor self-care opportunities for staff members to interact informally through fun activities such as virtual games, escape rooms, and staff recognition activities.

We at PVUSD continue to develop SEL activities and resources for our close-knit community. Currently under development are a district-based website for social emotional support, referrals and behavior tips; a district-wide SEL curriculum with directed lessons to be delivered by teachers or support staff; and a collaborative SEL monthly newsletter. PVUSD has embraced the challenges presented by the current pandemic crisis. We are learning from our experiences and becoming more empowered!



DISTRICT SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

SECONDARY LEVEL 9-12

Our School Counseling Departments at Palo Verde High School & Twin Palms High School is committed to continue to provide school counseling services to all students and their families during these unprecedented times. As we navigate and adjust to new challenges, we will continue to work on making ourselves accessible so that we can best support our student's social, emotional, and academic goals.

Based on Safety Guidelines the School Counseling Departments have continued to maintain the confidentiality of our students. As School Counselors, we maintain strict confidentiality in all of our interactions.

All meetings held online or over the phone with the school counselor will remain confidential unless the student gives permission to share information with related parties. However, circumstances do arise where we must disclose information to appropriate professionals. Reasons for breaking confidentiality are but not limited to: a student is in danger of harming themselves, another individual, or if a student is in danger of being harmed by others.

Using the MTSS Model, Multi-Tier System of Supports, we are intentional in our mission to support students providing Tier I, Tier II, & Tier III interventions.

- Tier I: Interventions & Supports Provided to All Students
- Tier II: Targeted Support for Students with Risk Factors
- Tier III: Intensive Interventions for Students at High Risk

ACCESS & COMMUNICATION

In order to ensure that all students/parents are able to access us we will be posting information and resources through:

- Google Classrooms
- Aeries Communications
- Counseling Corner Newsletter (Palo Verde High School)
- Scorpion Newsletter (Twin Palms High School)
- Zoom Meetings, Phone Calls or Email Contact

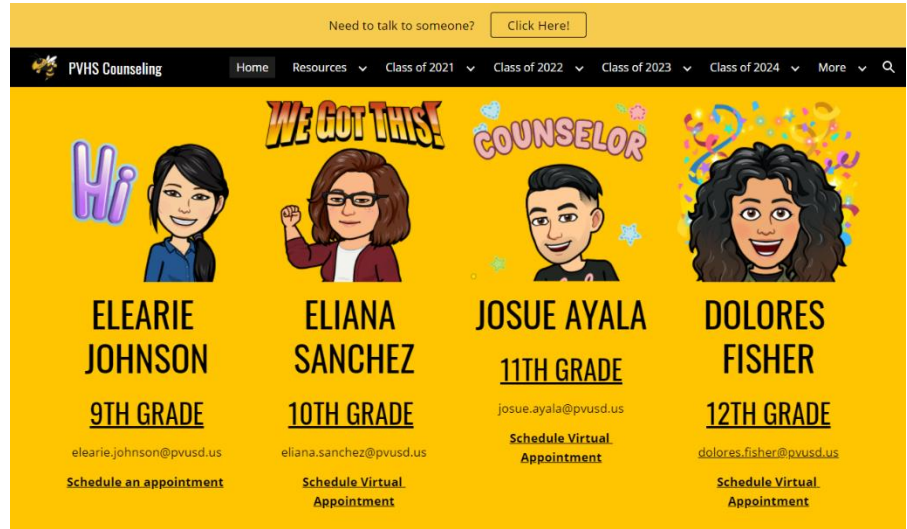


ONLINE SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

We will continue to provide all our students with social-emotional support by:

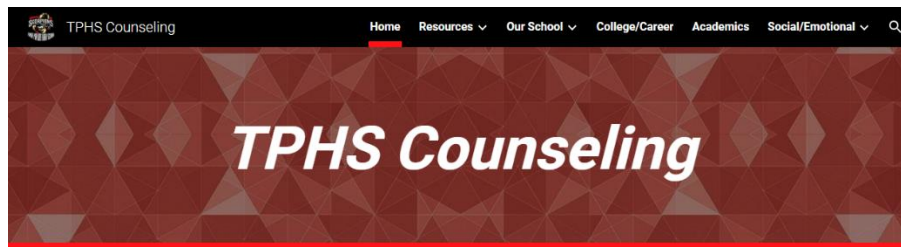
- Checking in on student through zoom meetings, phone calls & emails
- Providing social emotional support resources on the PVUSD website
- Virtual Calming Room
- Social Emotional Support Hotlines or Text Lines
- Mental Health Agency Referral, Riverside University Health System
- Blythe Mental Health Clinic

2 STEPS TO SCHEDULING A COUNSELING APPOINTMENT



1. Click on your counselor's name on Counseling Website to make a Zoom/ Phone appointment:

- Palo Verde High School 9th Grade - Elearie Johnson
- Palo Verde High School 10th Grade - Eliana Sanchez
- Palo Verde High School 11th Grade - Josue Ayala
- Palo Verde High School 12th Grade - Dolores Fisher
- Twin Palms Continuation High School – Javier Rubalcava



Welcome to Mr. Rubalcava's Counseling Website

Javier Rubalcava

TP Counselor

javier.rubalcava@pvusd.us

[Schedule Virtual](#)

[Appointment](#)

2. Student Attends Scheduled Zoom Meeting/ Phone Appointment

TEACHER COLLABORATION & CONSULTATION

Continuing with our efforts to work closely with our Faculty & Staff we are working closely as a Team so that we can best support our students Social Emotional Needs that may be affecting their Academics.

The following collaboration efforts are made through:

- Pre-SST Meeting (Student Success Team) Meetings
- Communication via Email with Teacher, Student, Parent/Guardian, and Counselor
- Teacher Referrals to Counselor of Student Concerns
- Consultation between Teacher & Counselor

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING LESSONS

The Counseling Departments are committed to providing students a space to engage in opportunities to support their Social & Emotional Needs through Social Emotional Learning Lessons & Groups focused on specific Social/Emotional issues to help develop coping skills to best address our student's needs.

A Social Emotional Needs Assessment will be pushed out to our students to collect data for our department to determine the Social Emotional Groups that will be formed & the areas of focus for them.

Social Emotional Learning Lessons will address related topics such as:

- Stress Management
- Managing Anxiety
- Addressing Stress & Anxiety related to COVID-19
- Study Skills & Time Management
- Effective Communication & Problem Solving
- Anger Management

Principals are working closely with their support team to provide SEL support for staff. Principals are sharing SEL support and strategies.

Additional Public Health Information:

Riverside University Department of Public Health (RUHS-PH) RUHS-PH for COVID-19 consultation and guidance email rivco-schools@ruhealth.org

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) “COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School Based Programs”
<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-schools.pdf> California

Department of Public Health (CDPH) “COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Institutions of Higher Education” <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-higher-education--en.pdf>

California Department of Education (CDE) “Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools”
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/documents/strongertogether.pdf>

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) <https://www.rcoe.us>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance for Schools and Childcare <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/index.html>

Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/index.htm><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>

COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Consolidated_Schools_Guidance.pdf

**STAY
CONNECTED.**



Visit our website at:

www.pvUSD.us

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook

**[https://www.facebook.com/PVUSD-Palo-Verde-
Unified-School-District-106214997694393](https://www.facebook.com/PVUSD-Palo-Verde-Unified-School-District-106214997694393)**