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March 16, 2020

## Dear Holtville Parents/Guardians:

While the number of positive cases of COVID-19 cases in Imperial County remains low, we know that you all are extremely concerned, as are we, for the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and our community. In light of this, Holtville Unified School District has chosen to close all schools beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020. As of now, we do not plan to reopen our schools until the end of our planned Spring Break, or Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Please know that we did not arrive at this decision lightly. While we believe that the risk of contracting COVID-19 remains low in our community, we are closing schools through an abundance of caution to protect all involved and prevent further spread of the virus.

Below is a list of questions you may have about the school closure:

## Will students still be responsible for schoolwork?

Yes. Please note that the State of California has made it very clear that we as a school district are still responsible for delivering education services to our students. This will be a challenge in our current environment. Our school principals are working diligently with teachers and staff to create lessons that can be conducted at home. You will receive further instructions from your student's specific school site.

## How will lessons be delivered?

Currently, we are exploring the use of many methods of delivery to best meet the educational needs of our students. For the time being, homework packets are being assembled. However, the District is also exploring the use of technology and the Internet, and further instructions will follow. For now, please be advised that Charter Communications (aka Spectrum) is offering **free** internet installation and service to homes for the next 60 days to help accommodate this crisis. To qualify, your household must 1) have either K-12 or college-level child(ren) living in the home, AND 2) must not have pre-existing Spectrum Internet service. Please call them directly at 1-844-488-8395 to inquire about these services.

## What services will be available at the schools?

The State has required that the Food Service operations at the District remain open during the school closure. Meals will continue to be prepared for our students but will be distributed via

"drive-through" at both Finley School on  $6^{th}$  Street, and at the High School on  $7^{th}$  Street, between the hours 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM (Breakfast) and 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (Lunch), Monday-Friday. Further information regarding food service will be posted to our website (husd.net).

Teachers will continue to prepare lessons for students, and each school will provide information via the tele-parent automatic phone system, as well as utilization of email, our website (<a href="https://husd.net">husd.net</a>), the Remind app, and other means of communication that you currently use to communicate with your child(ren)'s school.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these trying times. Please rest assured that we at the school district are doing everything in our power to provide you timely answers and information regarding this evolving crisis. Please, if you have any further questions regarding the school closure, please do not hesitate to ask. We have set up a temporary email address for questions specific to this situation, covid19@husd.net.

Thank you again,

Celso Ruiz

Superintendent

John-Paul Wells

Assistant Superintendent