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August 3, 2020

Dear Families:

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. As you are aware, the Etiwanda School District ("District") will begin the 2020-2021 school year in a Virtual Learning model, due to mandates from Governor Newsom in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the Governor's announcement, the Etiwanda Board of Trustees had announced that the 2020-21 school year would begin with the choice of three different student attendance models: Hybrid, Virtual Learning, or Home School options. This decision, as well as the plan described below to provide educational services to your child, was based on guidance available at the time from the Center for Disease Control, the California Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, and other relevant information available to the District, including County and State orders. The District has been committed to offering choices to parents that address each student's individual needs as well as each family's unique circumstances.

However, on July 17, 2020, Governor Newsom announced that all schools located in counties on the State's "COVID-19 Monitoring List" are required to begin the school year with distance learning. Because San Bernardino County is on that list, the District is required to begin the school year using a Distance Learning model. Due to this mandate from the Governor, all Etiwanda students will begin the school year in our Virtual Learning classroom model.

The District's Virtual Learning classroom model is very different from the distance learning that took place in the spring. The District has taken great measures to ensure that our Virtual Learning program for the 2020-2021 school year is robust and includes, among other things, daily live interaction with teachers and peers and required daily instructional minutes. The District has also taken measures to ensure that all students have access to connectivity and necessary devices to ensure their participation in the Virtual Learning classroom model.

For students with disabilities, the District will continue to implement IEPs to the extent feasible through its Virtual Learning classroom model. Your child's teacher and/or service providers will contact you to provide you with a Virtual Learning Plan that is personalized for your child. The Virtual Learning Plan will outline how your child's IEP will be implemented through our Virtual Learning classroom model, and may include accommodations to support your child's access to Virtual Learning.

Please know that while the District would like to implement your child's IEP exactly as written, that is not always possible due to current state and local mandates requiring Distance Learning (Virtual Learning) and social distancing. However, please be assured that your child's teacher and service providers will implement your child's IEPs to the greatest extent feasible during this emergency situation. If you have questions or would like to otherwise provide input regarding your child's Virtual Learning program, or if you would like to meet in an IEP meeting to discuss the provision of a free, appropriate public education, please contact your child's case manager. It is our desire to work in collaboration with you to ensure that students have access to a meaningful education under these unusual circumstances.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and Etiwanda community at large is of paramount concern. We will continue to support the needs of each child, while keeping in mind the health and safety of all. We understand that Virtual Learning presents a unique challenge for students with disabilities; however, this situation is unprecedented. When it is safe to resume school, your child will receive the placement and related services as written in his or her IEP.

Should you have any questions or if you like another copy of your procedural safeguards, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are thankful for your partnership as we navigate this challenging situation and work together to provide the high-quality education that the Etiwanda School District is known for. Please stay safe and healthy during this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Freer".

Beth Freer  
Administrator of Special Education  
Etiwanda School District