

## District Communication July 27

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Last week I sent a notice indicating that Sierra Sands will start the school year with Distance Learning. We are working at full speed to be sure your student experiences high quality learning beginning Day 1. Speaking of Day 1, following are a number of important items that you should know as we head into August:

- The district is implementing *Canvas* (a learning management platform) to ensure consistency for all students. Teachers, students, and parents will be navigating the learning experience through *Canvas*, which will simplify the virtual classroom.
- Pending agreement with employee associations and Board-approval, the district is planning to alter the 2020-2021 calendar and postpone the student start date to Monday, August 17, in order to provide significant professional development/training for teachers, **and parents/guardians**. During the week of August 10th-15th, teachers will work an intensive and collaborative week with a focus on professional development/training. *During the same week, evening virtual training sessions on the use of Canvas will be made available to parents/guardians.*
- District leadership is working with teachers in order to develop high quality learning schedules. Before your child starts school, you will have a learning schedule that organizes your student's daily school routine.
- We are rolling out our first-ever one-to-one Chromebook program for secondary students. Equipping our secondary students with "their own" Chromebook will ensure the instructional technology needed for success, and a sense of "pride of ownership." Of course, all students in elementary school are also provided a loaner Chromebook during Distance Learning.
- Sierra Sands recognizes the importance of implementing a high quality special education program that serves the unique needs of our students, not just for academic services, but also socio-emotional health and mental health services. We are pursuing options to deliver the best specialized services possible.

Every day between now and August 17, everyone in Sierra Sands is working hard to plan and prepare the very best educational opportunity for our students during this temporary pandemic.

I hope you are staying cool and safe these summer days.

Sincerely,  
Dave Ostash  
Superintendent