



SIERRA SANDS Unified School District

Dear Community,

Last week I sent a 2nd survey to all Sierra Sands parents regarding educational program preference for the 2020-2021 school year. I want to share those results with you and then provide a thorough update for where we are in the planning process.

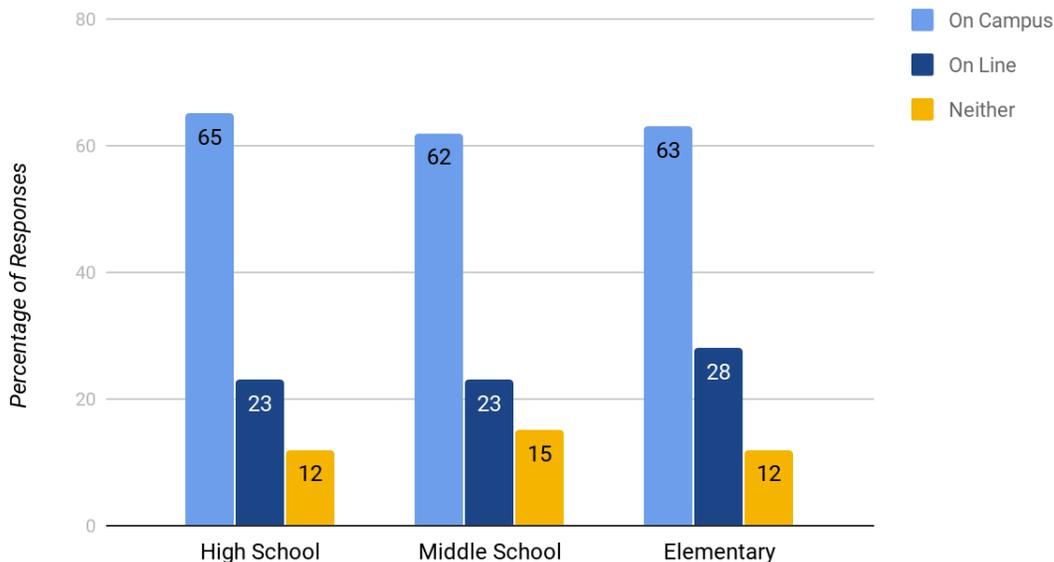
As of today, we received over 2,000 responses to the 2nd survey. Here is a summary of responses:

High School Level: 65% of survey respondents prefer an On Campus educational program. 23% of survey respondents prefer an On Line program.

Middle School Level: 62% of survey respondents prefer an On Campus educational program. 23% of survey respondents prefer an On Line program.

Elementary School Level: 63% of survey respondents prefer an On Campus educational program. 28% of survey respondents prefer an On Line program.

Sierra Sands Survey Results Summary



(In each of the statistics above, the remaining percentage to equal 100% indicated “Neither Option” suited their preference for an educational program).

Based on the survey results we have received to date, we plan to provide the 2-option program (On Campus or On Line) that we have been communicating throughout the summer. At the time of the 2nd survey, it is clear that a majority of our parents prefer a modified am/pm split schedule On

Campus program.

Planning for the reopening of our schools is filled with daily changes in county and state guidance, not to mention concerns related to corona virus. Therefore, we have found it important to fully embrace our guiding principles so that whenever we are dealing with changing details, we know our priorities. In collaborating with our governing board, the district reopening committee, parents, staff, and employee associations, the district identifies the following guiding principles:

- Follow the law and take all reasonable steps to follow appropriate guidance
- Health and safety of students and staff
- Socialization and connection with students
- Provide nutritional services to our students
- Optimize our means of educating our students

Many of us feel as though we are walking on wet cement as we plan. As most of you know, yesterday the largest districts in the state finalized their decision to start school with Distance Learning only. Many districts are making the same announcement today.

I believe that public education is one of the foundational pillars of the American Dream. All students deserve the priceless opportunity that is provided in the classroom. We must deliver the very best public service so that we are teaching the whole child. This means that among other important areas of a child's life we are teaching or providing services in these areas: academic, socio-emotional, nutrition, mental health, and physical/athletic. While we can certainly provide comprehensive services in a number of ways, including virtual, there is no substitute for the human connection and inspiration that occurs on campus, in the classroom.

It is in this spirit that, as of the time I write to you, we continue to plan for the 2-choice option. A multitude of guidelines will be implemented in the modified On Campus approach, including social distancing, protocols for breakfast and lunch service, and required face coverings among other things. I should also note that it is possible we must revert to a Distance Learning-only offering, based on unfolding data and events. You will continue to hear from me as quickly as I have an update.

The one thing that I can promise that will not change is our dedication to doing everything possible to deliver high quality education to our valley's children.

Sincerely,
Dave Ostash
Superintendent