## March 15, 2020

**Effective Tuesday, March 17 through April 14, 2020 all schools in Sierra Sands Unified School District will be closed for ordinary school operations**.

With guidance from the Office of Kern County Superintendent of Schools and Kern County Department of Health, the closure of our county's school districts from March 17-April 14 is being enacted in order to aid in reducing the risk of infection of COVID-19.

**Tomorrow, Monday, March 16, all schools in Sierra Sands will be open for a minimum instructional day.** We know that families rely upon our schools for services and care, and this gives some time for adjustments to be made. Families are also free to make the decision to keep children home from school if they so choose. At the time of writing this, I am informed there are still no confirmed cases in Kern County for corona virus.

In the coming days, our professionals in Sierra Sands will be working hard to determine, among other things:

1) Continuity of learning
2) Child care/supervision
3) Food services
4) Special education delivery of services
5) Staffing

As you are aware, the Sierra Sands Board of Trustees met yesterday and voted unanimously to authorize the superintendent to declare school closures, if necessary or directed, based on the recent and ongoing guidance issued by the following agencies: California Department of Public Health, Kern County Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools.

Based on Governor Newsom's promise this afternoon to inform us, on Tuesday, of the state's plan to require and assist with services, and new guidance I received this evening from the Kern County Department of Public Health and the Office of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, **I am exercising my authority to declare school closures in Sierra Sands from Tuesday, March 17 through Tuesday, April 14, 2020.**

Dave Ostash,
Superintendent