As you may be aware, the closure of public schools throughout the Bay Area has been extended through at least May 1, 2020. This coordinated decision was made by county offices of education and public health departments to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. We are heeding the advice of medical professionals, assessing our options, and implementing our best course of action. We understand the stress caused by dramatic change and we understand it is worse when coupled with uncertainty. We are experiencing all of this with you, each and every one of us.

The agencies that oversee our work, particularly the state and federal departments of education, are working through the questions that all public schools are asking. When we get the answers to our questions, we will have the answers to more of your questions. For now, here are the highlights of how we are responding to the Bay Area’s decision to extend school closures.

✓ **Health First** – We want to stop the spread of the virus. We need to limit physical contact with others. Unless it is an essential service such as food, we are staying home.

✓ **Educational Resources** – We already have a range of quality educational resources available for students and families at www.sjusd.org and we will continue to update it.

✓ **Educational Experiences** – Lessons are being produced, teachers are connecting with students, and the long-term plan will be at www.sjusd.org by the end of next week.

✓ **Requirements** – The calculation of attendance and instructional minutes and requirements such as AP exams are determined at the state and/or national level. We need the answers as much as you do and are requesting clear and consistent guidance on a daily basis.

✓ **Technology** – Other than a mobile phone, many of our students do not have their own learning device and even more do not have high-speed internet at home. Under the current health orders from the county and the state, it is imprudent for us to arrange large-scale distributions of devices that are currently at schools. Instead, we are seeking direct shipment of new Chromebooks and iPads with pre-loaded educational software and free WiFi. No one is more empowered to accomplish this quickly and safely than our local tech industry.

✓ **www.sjusd.org** – We are in the process of transitioning www.sjusd.org to be the best possible interim solution for replacing the social experiences and connections our schools provide when open: meals, learning, extra-curriculars, mental health, recess, laughing, and so much more, with the website updated daily to support you during this emergency.

We want to get back to school, our activities, and life outside our homes as much as you do. The surest way to do that is to heed the advice of our medical professionals. We need to stay home and enforce social distancing. Our shared sacrifices now will slow the spread of this pandemic, keep people alive, and get us all back to doing the things we value and enjoy. We are eager for the safe return of our 29,000 students and 2,900 employees so that, as a unified community, we continue to prepare today’s students to be the thinkers, leaders, and creators of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Nancy Albarrán
Superintendent