



Mountain View  
Whisman  
School District

# Distance Learning Update and Next Steps

November 19, 2020





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# Distance Learning

# Guiding Principles



Keep employees and students safe



Be nimble and ready to deliver instruction in any of the Four Stages



Create high-quality, equitable learning environments for all students



Involve our community in solutions, planning and implementation

MVWSD plan informed by guidance from the California Department of Education, Santa Clara Public Health, Santa Clara County Office of Education, Centers for Disease Control, and Sacramento County Office of Education.

# Distance Learning Review

- Review of metrics collected during the first months of Distance learning
- Stakeholder feedback was taken through focus group meetings to identify strengths and challenges
- Stakeholder group/ focus group identified from Spring 2020
  - Representation from all school sites
  - Administrator feedback session - October 20, 2020
  - Parent feedback session - November 2, 2020
  - Teacher, Staff feedback session - November 4, 2020
  - DELAC meeting - November 9, 2020 - invitation for feedback



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# Distance Learning Review and Feedback

# Distance Learning Metrics

- i-Ready Diagnostic 1 data analysis indicates that all student cohorts made growth from Winter 2019 to Fall 2020
  - Data also indicates that there are opportunities for more targeted instructional supports for our 5th, 7th, and 8th graders in both Reading and Math
- Our ELs, SED, SWD, younger students need additional supports
- Initial review of Average Daily Attendance for all schools is positive. From August - October, ADA ranged from 93% - 99%
- Monthly technology incidents have decreased from 1,148 in August to 44 so far in November
- Thought Exchange Metrics - September 2020
  - 1510 participants
  - 2532 thoughts shared

# What's Working

## (Parent Feedback Focus Group and Thought Exchange)

- Structured instructional day (mirroring in-person school day) - combination of live, whole group, small group breakout sessions
- Parents feel more involved and engaged in their child's instruction - more aware of curriculum and day-to-day instructional activities
- Longer lunch period - break away from screen, time with family
- Consistency of teaching platforms - Google Classroom, Seesaw, Flipgrid
- Appreciate the teacher communication and responsiveness
- Digital literacy and technology use - Distance Learning is helping build some independence in students
- Some families like the asynchronous day
- Families appreciated that all students were provided with chromebooks
- Student feedback via Google Classroom or Seesaw is helpful

# Some Challenges

## (Parent Feedback Focus Group and Thought Exchange)

- Some students need more support - challenging tasks for higher performing students and some 1:1 time with teacher
- Social Emotional Health and Learning is a challenge - request for some additional social interactions
- Students with special needs require additional support from teachers
- Balancing homework in addition to all day in Zoom is a challenge for students and families
- Younger students get tired of being on Zoom through the day
- Asynchronous day is a challenge for some families



# What's Working

## (Teacher/Staff Feedback Focus Group and Thought Exchange)

- COVID - 19 safe continuity of learning and connection with students is appreciated
- Teachers/Staff appreciate the consistency of a structured day
- Small group instruction for elementary has been beneficial for student support
- Students' executive functioning - organizational skills - are improving
- More families engaged in child's learning
- Technology is becoming second nature even for teachers, staff that were not so comfortable with it earlier
- Teachers and students are somewhat adjusted to Distance Learning

# Some Challenges

## (Teacher/Staff Feedback Focus Group and Thought Exchange)

- Level of student engagement and focus through virtual lessons is not the same as in-person lessons
- Virtual instruction and assessment take longer
  - Teaching organization as well as content
- Workload is challenging
- Hands-on activities are tricky to do virtually
- Student connectivity issues sometimes lead to ‘losing’ students in class
- Balancing whole class engagement with differentiation for students continues to be a focus



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# Looking Ahead

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- The MVWSD Distance Learning Plan was created based on the feedback and input of stakeholders and what we learned from spring 2020
- Initial metrics and focus group feedback from this fall were generally positive
- Most students, staff and families are adjusting to the distance learning environment
- Parents want the focus to be on moving forward with reopening than refining current distance learning
- Data suggests some small changes/refinements can be made to continue to support staff and students

# Adjustments

- Fine tune our virtual learning environments
  - Remove elementary Wednesday afternoon check-out
  - Encourage teachers to build additional opportunities for
    - 1:1 individualized time with teacher, based on student needs
    - Targeted small group instruction
- Provide additional strategies for student engagement
- Provide teachers with additional SEL resources
- Explore more opportunities for virtual social interaction
  - Lunch/ break social time



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# Next Steps

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- Fine tune and make small adjustments to current Distance Learning implementation
- Communicate refinements to stakeholders
- Continue to plan for school reopening
- Offer optional (socially distanced, in-person) activities for elementary students in partnership with Living Classroom and Rhythm and Moves
  - Develop opportunities for middle school students as appropriate
- Open support pods for identified students

# Questions?