



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

## Community Health Alert - Vista Virtual School Launch

March 18, 2020

Esteemed Parents, Students, Staff, and Community Members,

This is the sixth **Community Health Alert** regarding information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the proactive steps the Vista Unified staff is taking to ensure the safety of all students and adults.

All Vista Unified Schools have been closed until after Spring Break. While we have set a reopen date of April, 6, 2020, we continue to monitor the situation regionally and nationally. It is entirely possible that we will need to extend the school closures. We will notify all parents and staff if this is necessary. You may have heard on the news this week that Governor Newsom shared his opinion that schools may not reopen this school year. We understand that this news is unsettling. We are working in consultation with state and local authorities to make the determination about extending school closures in the coming week.

Officials at the state and local level from the Governor to the regional San Diego Public Health Officer, Dr. Wilma Wooten, continue to issue updates to health orders almost daily. Please visit the VUSD [Health and Safety](#) webpage to view the most recent orders.

In an effort to comply with the most recent [Emergency Regulations](#) from SD County Health And Human Services, all staff, with the exception of a limited number of custodial and nutritional support staff, have been sent home. Most of the VUSD staff will continue working remotely until the Emergency Regulations are lifted. VUSD staff are in the process of developing a complete support system for students and families that address needs including nutrition, health, and education. This system is called the "Vista Virtual School." We will be launching the Vista Virtual School in the coming week. Once launched, we will continue to refine the system and add resources as they are developed. We encourage students and families to take advantage of these supports as we all work together to respond to this health emergency.

Vista Virtual School is our newest system of support intended to provide remote access to a host of resources and learning experiences for all students. We have created a website to serve as the hub for our virtual learning system. We anticipate making the website live on Monday, March 23, 2020. We have also added links below for students and parents to access immediately. Please find below a simple outline of the virtual school system. For each component of the system, we will have a contact number so that students and parents may call and speak to a person for customer service.

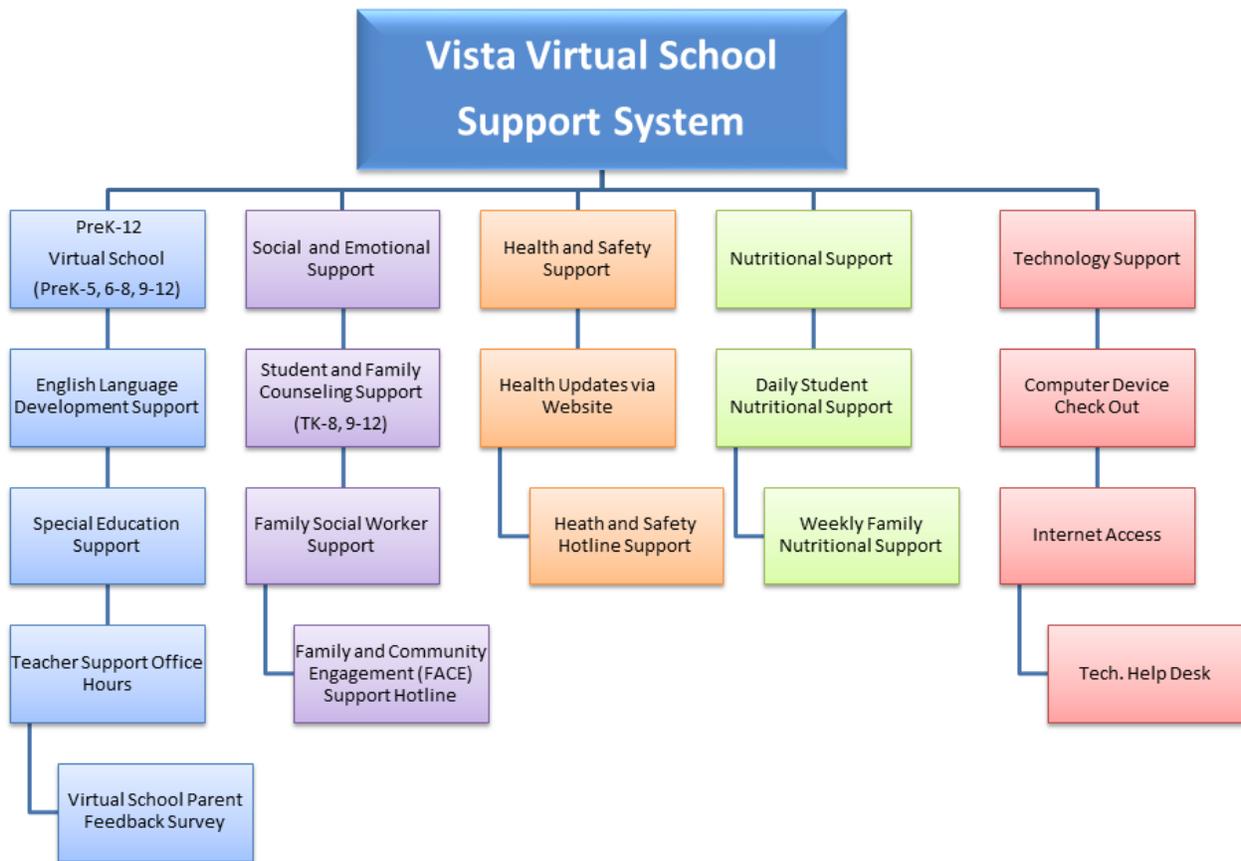
The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas



The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

## Vista Virtual School

Please find below a brief overview of the components of the Vista Virtual School. We use the term Vista Virtual School because our goal is to create a system of virtual supports that mirror the support systems that are in place when students are on campus.

---

### ***Elementary School Overview (PreK-5)***

A team of teachers and administrators have been working on both short term and long term plans so student learning can continue. A short term learning opportunity will be available for students in grades PreK-5. Packets for preschool and each elementary grade level can be accessed online through this [folder](#), and printed copies will be available for pick up beginning Monday, March 23, from 11:00-12:00 at the following locations:

- Foothill Oak Elementary
- Grapevine Elementary
- Roosevelt Middle School
- Rancho Buena Vista High School
- Vista High School
- Boys and Girls Club

In anticipation of the possibility of schools being closed longer, Vista Unified is proud to launch Vista Virtual School starting Monday, April 6, 2020. This virtual learning environment will be organized by grade level because we feel it is necessary for students to have learning opportunities that are aligned to the California Common Core State Standards and age appropriate expectations. An important component of a virtual environment is an opportunity for students and their parents to interact with a teacher during this time.

---

### ***Middle School Overview (6-8)***

Teams of VUSD teachers have developed learning resources for the interim period prior to Spring Break. These learning practices, resources, and activities are accessible in this document: [Vista Virtual School: Middle School Learning Resources from Home](#). Students and parents should work together to select resources that match their abilities. These resources will also be available in a paper packet for families to pick up beginning Monday, March 23, from 11:00-12:00 at the following locations:

- Foothill Oak Elementary
- Grapevine Elementary
- Roosevelt Middle School
- Rancho Buena Vista High School
- Vista High School
- Boys and Girls Club

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

In the event of school closures beyond April 6th, we are committed to providing high-quality virtual learning opportunities for all middle school students. Teachers and leaders at our Vista Unified middle schools are working to finalize details for the Vista Virtual School online platform.

---

### ***High School Overview (9-12)***

To support students during the school closure, the following is a [list](#) of resources and activities for students to consider. Students may receive activities from teachers and may also visit existing Google Classroom or course webpages to review notes and previous assignments.

In the event of school closures beyond April 6th, we are committed to providing high-quality virtual learning opportunities for all students. Teachers and leaders at each Vista Unified high school are working to finalize details for the virtual platform.

---

### ***English Language Development***

The Vista Unified School District is committed to the academic and linguistic progress of our English Language Learners (ELLs) during this period. We have created [ELL School Closure Resources](#), which lists activities and supports for our ELLs as they practice grade level skills.

In the event that schools are closed beyond April 6, the Vista Unified ELD Department will create a strategic plan with ELD resources available to families and our ELLs through our Vista Virtual School.

---

### ***Special Education***

We are working diligently to minimize the impact of extended school closures for all students, including students with IEPs. In addition to the suggested learning activities being made available to all students, the Special Education Department has created a parent-friendly [list](#) of alternative activities to support student learning during our school closure through April 6, 2020.

In the event of extended school closures, our District is developing opportunities for students to continue their education digitally through the Vista Virtual School structure. These instructional opportunities will be accessible for all students and will allow students with IEPs to receive comparable services. In this event, parents will receive individualized communication outlining these comparable services.

---

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

### ***Social Emotional Support***

The Vista Unified School District will continue to provide resources to support our students and families' social emotional needs. School counselors can provide support for students and families who may be experiencing stress due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Counselors will also be available to provide support over the phone with ongoing social emotional needs facing our students and families, such as mental health supports, behavioral supports, and academic challenges. Families and students can contact their school counselor directly, with contact numbers and emails listed on school websites, or can contact Student Support Services by phone at (760) 726-2170, extension 92180, or by email at [CraigWiblemo@vistausd.org](mailto:CraigWiblemo@vistausd.org).

VUSD will also provide social emotional support information and resources through a dedicated section on the Vista Virtual School webpage. Resources will include emotional wellness and self care activities, lessons, and presentation. Additionally, the website will include advice for parents and caregivers who may want resources to guide their discussions with their children and teens about COVID-19, as well as helping families who are coping with stress and anxiety due to the infectious disease outbreak and its fallout.

---

### ***Health and Safety Support***

The Vista Unified School District will continue to monitor the emergency and provide regular updates to students and their parents/guardians who attend Vista Virtual School. Our team of twelve school registered nurses (RNs) will be available to students and their parents to provide health support to students virtually and to direct students and parents to appropriate health-related resources that are available within our community when necessary. Families can contact their school's nurse directly, with contact information listed on our [website](#), or can contact Student Support Services by phone at (760) 726-2170, extension 92180 or by email at [CraigWiblemo@vistausd.org](mailto:CraigWiblemo@vistausd.org).

The VUSD Health and Safety website will be continuously updated throughout the duration of this emergency. This site serves as a repository for Health Alerts from our Superintendent. The site is regularly updated with up-to-date information on the COVID-19 crisis from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Public Health, the San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services and other governmental agencies that are all focused on fighting the spread of this disease.

---

### ***Nutritional & Familial Support***

Child Nutrition Services (CNS) continues to serve food daily from 11:00-12:00 at Foothill Oak Elementary, Grapevine Elementary, Roosevelt Middle School, Rancho Buena Vista High School, Vista High School, and

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

the Boys and Girls Club. Children ages 18 and younger will be given lunch and breakfast for the next day when picking up their meals. Due to Federal Regulations, we are unable to give meals out if the child is not present.

As we monitor the situation, CNS is proactively planning to ensure families are supported to the greatest extent possible. Updates will be posted on our website at [www.wavecrestcafe.com](http://www.wavecrestcafe.com) as well as WaveCrest's social media accounts. WaveCrest staff will be available to provide support for families Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. by phone at (760) 726-2170 extension 92400 or by email at [gloriadavis@vistausd.org](mailto:gloriadavis@vistausd.org).

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Network continues to maintain its various systems of support for families, most specifically focused on working with Student Support Services and the Child Nutrition Services departments to maintain nutritional support for families. Aside from the VUSD meals that continue to be provided daily for children and students, these teams have been working with a number of community partners to maintain our usual weekly food distributions for students and families. We are also in daily contact with many community departments to maintain a list of other continuing services as well as maintaining communication with parents across our schools to provide additional support. FACE staff will be available to provide support for families Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Families can contact their school's liaison directly through this [list](#), by phone at (760) 726-2170, extension 92011, or by email at [FamilyEngagement@vistausd.org](mailto:FamilyEngagement@vistausd.org).

---

### **Technology Support**

The Information Technology (IT) Department is responsible for providing access to instructional materials and resources. IT staff will be available to provide technical support for families Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by phone at (760) 726-2170, extension 92500 or by email at [servicedesk@vistausd.org](mailto:servicedesk@vistausd.org).

Chromebooks are available to check out for students who do not have access to a desktop computer or laptop (Macbook, Chromebook, etc) at home. There are also a limited amount of WiFi Hotspots available to check out to families. Chromebooks and WiFi Hotspots will be distributed based on need at a later date.

Cox Communications pledges for the next 60 days to: “not terminate service to any residential customer because of an inability to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic; waive any late fees that any residential customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and open Cox WiFi hotspots to help keep the public connected in this time of need.” Please visit [www.cox.com/hotspots](http://www.cox.com/hotspots) for more information on Cox WiFi Hotspots.

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

The Cox Connect2Compete program is available to families who:

- have at least one child who attends a Vista Unified School,
- participate in one of these government subsidy programs: The National School Lunch Program, SNAP, TANF or Public Housing
- have not had Cox internet services in the home within the last 90 days.

If your household meets these criteria, you may qualify for discounted home internet service from Cox for just \$9.95 per month. For participating families, there are no deposits or annual contracts, and installation and in-home wifi is included at no additional charge. Find out if you qualify by visiting [www.cox.com/c2c](http://www.cox.com/c2c), or call 1-855-222-3252.

---

The Vista Unified School District is committed to providing a robust set of support to students and families during this challenging health emergency. Please know that we will continue to expand our support systems based on feedback from the community.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Doyle  
Superintendent of Schools  
Vista Unified School District

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.