



Banta Elementary School District

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June 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

This past year has been a very unique and challenging year for all of us. I am very proud of how our students, families, and staff have come together during these ongoing crises. Banta Elementary School District will continue to offer the best education and student support during these trying times. I appreciate all the support from parents, teachers, and support staff for all they have done over the past few months. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

As we plan for next school year, we are preparing to continue to offer the best education for children that meets each individual child needs. At this time, we are planning to start school on Tuesday, August 11th, as scheduled. We are working towards offering three educational programs for next year. These programs are*:

1. **In school Education:** This is the option that we believe most parents will choose. School would function in a traditional model with some modifications. These modifications may include more handwashing stations, allowing teacher and staff to choose to wear masks or not, checking staff and student temperatures each morning. Classrooms, for the beginning of the school year, will remain together as a whole with limited contact with other classrooms. Transportation is still undecided for the beginning of the school year due to social distancing concerns. We will be offering afterschool child care provided by Give Every Child a Chance (GECAC), and we are planning to offer before school care with a minimal cost.
2. **Independent Study:** This program will run like Independent Study has operated in the past. Students would receive weekly packets and need to turn them in completed at the end of the same week. All work will be graded and scored. This option is only available for up to ten weeks' maximum.
3. **Homeschool:** Banta District is pleased to be able to offer a homeschooling option for parents who want to home school their children for the whole school year. This program will be operated under the new Banta Charter School, and students will be enrolled in the Banta District. Students will be able to participate with all programs that the school offers; including fieldtrips, sports, special events, including learning and working in our new agricultural center/farm. In this program, the parent becomes the primary teacher, with support from a homeschool teacher. The district provides the curriculum, a computer, a printer/scanner per family; as well as, all school supplies. In addition, each family will have up to \$500 to spend on their own selected curriculum. For more information on this program, you can email the lead-teacher Mrs. Fornaciari at kfornaciari@bantasd.org or call the district office at (209) 229-4651.

Banta School is proud to be able to offer these programs to all students in the greater Banta, Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy areas under our new Banta Charter organization. For more information you can visit our web site at bantasd.org, or email Principal Ann Jayne at ajayne@bantasd.org.

I want to thank our Food Service workers for continuing to provide meals throughout the summer for all children up to the age of 18 at no cost to families, regardless if they are on free or reduce lunch (or attend our schools). A week's worth of meals will be served between 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Tuesdays at Banta Elementary School and the STEAM Academy. Please take advantage of these wonderfully prepared meals.

We wish you a restful and fun summer. Looking forward to seeing you all back here next year.

Sincerely,

Daniel Moore

Superintendent

* Subject to California being in Stage Three of COVID 19 continuum and San Joaquin County Health Department guidelines.