

# Coachella Valley Unified School District



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## Superintendent

*Dr. Maria G. Gandra*

August 21 , 2020

Dear CVUSD families,

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. I waited to send this communication as I knew you were receiving many communications from the District and your school sites about the start of the year.

A new school year has begun and with it comes the excitement and the uncertainties that every new year brings: “who’s my teacher, what classes do I have, will I be in the same class as my friends?” This year we have the added challenge of starting school in a virtual setting instead of in the traditional school building. While we all wish this year could be different, we are very happy to welcome all of you back. Our goal at CVUSD is to make sure we provide students with the best possible education and while COVID-19 changes how we will provide daily instruction, we remain committed to providing your child with rigorous instruction that will prepare them for their future.

This last week technology posed new challenges for many of us. Passwords that did not arrive by mail to many of you, the Proxy server (which is the security firewall) that would not accept passwords, downloading of applications that took forever, lack of hot spots, long, long waits for tech support, and several other technology issues that caused frustration and anger. WE DEEPLY APOLOGIZE for all of that. While we wish that everything had gone the way we had planned for, it did not. Our staff has been working countless hours to respond to the unexpected and in many occasions they were able to resolve the problem quickly while others required new innovative solutions, while others we are still working to resolve. Our Tech Department continues to respond to the work orders they receive through our [www.cvusd.us](http://www.cvusd.us) website and will do so until we are all back to a physical school site. The School Board has approved the purchase of brand new ipads for every student and they have been ordered. We hope to have them in October for distribution. More on that later.

WE have ordered more hot spots and they will arrive soon. The surveys that you responded to over the Summer indicated that 2,800 families needed hot spots. We passed out 3,000. As more families have now indicated that they need hot spots as they did not have internet connectivity at

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home, we have ordered 1,500 more and we are awaiting their arrival so we can distribute them. In the meantime, we have over 20 buses that are acting as our mobile hot spots with a range of 700-800 feet. We continue to monitor and move the buses to where the greatest need may be.

Our 17 Grab & Go Food Centers, which have provided more than 1.2 million meals, will distribute meals for five (5) days on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Due to new USDA rules and regulations, we are no longer able to distribute meals from buses and will need parents/students who pick up the meals to bring student school identification cards or the Nutrition Serces Card that has been mailed out to every student. We will provide you with five (5) breakfasts, five (5) lunches, and five (5) suppers per student. You may select one site to pick up meals for all your students. We continue to work with the Riverside County Latino Commission to provide mental health support to our students who are suffering from depression, anxiety, or stress caused by Covid-19. They can be reached at **760-398-9000**.

Here are some non-school related pieces of information that are important to share with you. More detailed information can be found on our website and/or social media accounts.

1. The US Census Bureau is hiring workers for temporary jobs as census takers for the 2020 Census. Please call 855-562-2020 if you are interested.
2. The US Census Bureau reminds you that the US Census must be completed by the end of September. You can respond online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), or by phone at (844) 330-2020 for English, and (844) 468-2020 for Spanish.
3. FREE COVID-19 tests are provided at Coachella Bagdouma Park. Please note that appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome. Please call 888-634-1123.
4. The Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine in Indio offers FREE healthcare services for uninsured low-income adults. They offer services such as general exams, women's wellness, orthopedics, diabetes management, and other services. They can be reached at 760-342-4414. Visits are by appointment only.

As we start the new school year online, each and every one of us in the Coachella Valley Unified School District is committed to do our best to help students continue to learn and Reach For The Stars.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Sincerely Yours,

*Maria G. Gandra*

Maria G. Gandra, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Coachella Valley Unified School District

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