



Community Transmittal

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Dear Lompoc Community:

LUSD in the News

<https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/free-wi-fi-services-to-be-made-available-to-all-lompoc-unified-students>

<https://www.ksby.com/news/local-news/lompoc-unified-school-district-finalizing-different-learning-models-starting-in-january>

Online Tutoring Services for Students

Fortify completed its contract to review potential contracts to provide online tutoring for students. After surveying numerous possibilities, Fortify asked for information and quotes from four companies and provided a summary of its findings to the District for our review. Secondary administrators and counselors have participated in a demo presentation of two of the four companies and have selected a preference that will best meet the needs of our students. Currently, the contract and process is being finalized to bring to the Board for approval in December. The online tutoring contract would be purchased with COVID funds.

Wi-Fi for All Students

We continue to make progress on providing Wi-Fi to all LUSD students using a “mesh net” that would provide service to all Lompoc students. ABM is assisting us with the implementation of this project. The project will be cost-neutral. Not only will LUSD students have access to the Wi-Fi, but local businesses as well as the City of Lompoc will also be able to access the Wi-Fi at a discounted price. The equipment arrived in Lompoc on Friday and will be installed next week. We will continue to update you on the progress. This is going to be huge in providing our students with reliable internet access. We are hoping it will eliminate, or greatly reduce the need for hotspots, and allow our students to access remote learning more easily and effectively. The District distributed all 250 hotspots, and while not perfect, many families have expressed gratitude to staff for the assistance.

Chromebooks and iPads

As it became apparent that we would not receive the Chromebooks in time to make the purchase with COVID funds, IT has decided to purchase 2,200 iPads for TK-2nd grade students. We believe iPads may be a better learning tool than a computer or Chromebooks for younger students, many of whom lack the manual dexterity to work a keyboard. iPads increase hand-eye coordination, provide clear screen that is easy to resize, and allow for an array of learning apps. Chromebooks on back order, with non-time sensitive funds, will remain for the use of our 3rd through 12th grade students in the future. Before initiating this purchase, we asked our TK-2 teachers if they would prefer iPads. They all indicated they agreed that these would be better and also provided feedback as to their preference for the iPad cases.

Summer School

We are looking into offering a “summer school” experience for students during the Winter Break so we can assist students in lessening the potential learning loss from distance learning. Depending on the level of interest, we will work on creating an impactful experience for our students with the help of COVID funds. We will focus on providing assistance to our English Learners and our Special Education students. This will allow us to use the COVID funds earmarked for Learning Loss Mitigation.

Starbase Academy at VAFB

If schools reopen as planned, Crestview Elementary will be the first school to participate in the Starbase Academy at VAFB. The fifth and sixth grade classes will participate in the program as early as January 25. Since Crestview students can walk from the school to the program there will be no transportation issues and will make Crestview the easiest school to initiate the partnership.

LUSD Senior Activities

Pupil Support Services convened a Senior Activities meeting with high school principals, lead counselors, and activities directors to discuss possible activities seniors can participate in during the Spring. Schools are doing their best to engage seniors virtually and motivate the seniors to finish strong. Currently there is a limit on the size of gatherings and this does not allow for activities involving the entire senior class, but LUSD is monitoring guidelines to determine when activities can be conducted safely. CHS and LHS have virtual senior week this week to order caps and gowns and increase senior spirit. High schools are also beginning to plan for contingencies for graduation in the Spring. All feedback from last Spring was very positive, so schools will use a similar format if a traditional graduation ceremony cannot be held.

COVID-19 Update

Santa Barbara County Adds 28 COVID-19 Cases, One More Death

By Jade Martinez-Pogue, Noozhawk Staff Writer | [@MartinezPogue](#)

November 4, 2020

8:50 p.m.

[Santa Barbara County Public Health Department](#) officials on Wednesday [reported](#) 28 new [COVID-19](#) cases and one additional death.

The individual was between ages 50 and 69, had underlying medical conditions and resided in Santa Barbara. The county's death toll has reached 130.

Santa Barbara County remained in the restrictive red tier under the state's color-coded reopening system following [Wednesday's tier assignment](#).

Public health officials reported a testing positivity rate of 2.2 percent for the week ending Oct. 24 and a health equity metric of 3.2. Both of those numbers meet the criteria for the moderate orange tier, but the adjusted case rate does not. On Wednesday, the county's adjusted case rate was 4.6 new cases per day per 100,000 people. It would need to drop to 3.9 in order to qualify the county for the orange tier. The county can advance to the orange tier only after meeting all of the criteria for two consecutive weeks.

The county's daily testing positivity rate for Wednesday was 1.7 percent, much lower than Tuesday's positivity rate of 2.6 percent.

The seven-day rolling community positivity rate was 2.2 percent. There were 108 active, meaning still-infectious, cases throughout the county.

Of the 28 cases reported Wednesday, 10 were from Santa Barbara. The Montecito-Summerland-Carpinteria area, [Lompoc](#) and [Santa Maria](#) each reported three new cases. Isla Vista and the Santa Ynez Valley both had two new cases. Goleta, the

unincorporated area of the Goleta Valley and Gaviota, Orcutt, and the unincorporated areas of North County all had one new case. One case was pending a location.

There were 10 COVID-19 patients in local hospitals, with two in intensive-care units.

Teacher Residency Program

We are waiting to hear back from SMJUSH and SMBSD to see if they are interested in partnering with us in our work to create a teacher residency program so that we can “grow our own” teachers. This will allow us to have a deeper pool of applicants while also having a workforce that’s more reflective of our students and who has gone through our system.

We are excited that this program falls in line with an article published on November 5:

Improving teacher retention rates

Using strategies to prevent teachers from leaving the profession could save schools money and lead to better outcomes for students, including those with disabilities, said panelists during a recent webinar on teacher retention hosted by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs. “The more supported teachers are in their early careers, the more likely they are to stay in the profession,” said OSEP Director Laurie VanderPloeg, who facilitated the webinars and urged school systems to “challenge the status quo” when developing solutions to retain teachers. Practices recommended by the panelists include empowering teachers through training and leadership opportunities; making sure teachers feel valued; and forming partnerships with local and state governments, school systems, and teacher preparation programs, to help reduce taxes for educators, offer discounted housing and provide student higher education tuition loan relief.

Education Dive

Here are specifics on how LUSD is doing as they suggest in the highlighted portion:

making sure teachers feel valued: We have improved our employee recognition program, which is one way we can show teachers they are values. In addition, we have annual recognitions for our Classified and Certificated staff where the District Administration provides them with hand-written cards, catered meals, etc., to show their appreciation.

empowering teachers through training and leadership opportunities: We have improved our training for teachers - asking them to rate specifically what they would like to have additional training on and then creating professional development that aligns with the survey results. We have also expanded our TSPs, allowing more teachers from diverse backgrounds to have leadership opportunities across our District.

and forming partnerships with local and state governments, school systems, and teacher preparation programs: We work with our surrounding districts to develop the best practices regarding reopening schools. In addition, we work with our philanthropic partners to expand the educational opportunities for students. We are also working with SMBSD and SMJUHS to create a teacher residency program partnering with Alder University.

Minimizing Exposure

At school sites and at the Education Center we continue to encourage staff to work remotely whenever possible to minimize the potential for exposure. As a reminder, all staff are eligible for Worker's Compensation should they contract COVID while at work. In order to minimize that possibility, while also protecting our employees, we are asking that office staff work on a rotational basis so that there continues to be staff available to answer the questions that students or families may have. We are asking other employees to work remotely as much as their positions allow, while still maintaining the same level of service to our families and staff. <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-office-workspaces.pdf>. Page 8 addresses workspace guidance for COVID-19. In addition, we work with each staff member through the interactive process to identify reasonable accommodations.

Mandatory Staff Testing

Mandatory staff test kits have arrived to employees, coaches, substitutes, student teachers and your doorsteps this last week. We will continue this testing every two months, adding newly hired staff as well. Results are provided to those who test through a HIPPA-compliant portal. Any staff member or volunteer who has contact with students or staff needs to be tested. Lisa Smith, Brandi Gutierrez and Candra Vetch have been working tirelessly to troubleshoot the kits that arrived damaged, missing parts, or for those employees who realized after sending in their samples that they had not followed all of the directions.

Gateway Foundation

The closure of schools due to COVID-19 is expected to result in a widening of the already existing achievement gap between students from low-income families and/or students of color and students from the middle class and affluent, white families. Our partnership with Gateway was finalized this week and we will work to start identifying the students who would most benefit from their services.

LUSD Resources

A link to our District Protocols is here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15oGNQKho_wGuX4vzHGWO8xovxZpct5Zwej5nk04_Kd8/edit?usp=sharing

A link to our FAQs is here: <https://bit.ly/LUSDFAQs>

The above two documents have been emailed to all staff, posted on social media and our websites since July 17 when the Governor presented his mandates for schools.

A link to our planning documents, which we have been working on since March, are here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IiALJbvpuUeBu4Ja7-TBm7LZjE0dtFIYUlyvzK2zqHs/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10AYr6gEVh-U2YGhwE9yElbAG3H1AzYTpKgocDUOYsNI/edit?usp=sharing>

Second LUSD Community Collaboration

On Tuesday, November 3, Pupil Support Services and District nursing staff met with community agencies, including LVMC, local pediatricians, FSA, law enforcement, CALM, North County Rape Crisis, CADA, CAC, local clinics, and Behavioral Wellness. One purpose of the Community

Collaborations is to update the community agencies on distance learning, possible reopening, and current services offered by the District. Another purpose is to hear from the agencies about the concerns they hear from the community and services that they offer our families during this time. Meetings occur every two weeks. Other agencies are welcome to join by contacting the Pupil Support Services office.

Special Education Plan

On November 3, the Special Education Plan committee met to review input on the Special Education Plan from Special Education teachers and staff, as well as elementary and secondary administrators. The plan was submitted to SELPA on November 6 and will be presented to the Board in December.

Attendance

This year, new COVID attendance codes have been used to adapt to the types of absences such as present/engaged, present/not engaged, and asynchronous when students are not on Zoom, but complete the work. LUSD teachers are teaching the minimum number of minutes required for all grades and students are given work during the Wednesday PD time. The one question that continuously keeps coming up is “are we documenting correctly for the engagement component?” We reached out to our auditors and they are still trying to determine what is needed as well. We will continue to seek advice to confirm we are being compliant with the expectations during distance learning.

Foster Youth/Homeless

LUSD currently has 92 foster youth attending classes in our District. This number has increased since last year and District and school staff are working together in order to support them during this difficult time. We are now working with SBCEO to provide training to all site administrators in the near future on homeless and foster youth.

CTE

SLO and SB county CTE leaders continue to meet to compare curriculum, best practices, and community partners. Sharing ideas and ways in which students can learn while teaching remotely has been helpful to all involved.

Safety

The topic of human trafficking continues to be the topic of discussion around the county. At the next safety meeting, North County Rape Crisis will present on this topic to District administrators. Site liaisons and outreach consultants have also been invited to attend this professional development.

Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan Parent Advisory Committee (LC&AP PAC)

The Common Core & Innovations staff held their first full LC&AP PAC meeting on October 15 and solicited parent input regarding the LC&AP. Attendance was good, and the conversations were productive and in-depth. The next meeting will be held on November 9 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the COVID funds expenditures and give an overview of the Parent Budget overview.

School Plans for Student Achievement

LUSD site administrators have been working collaboratively and diligently to finalize their School Plans for Student Achievement and will begin presenting and sharing their plans at upcoming School Board meetings. School Plans are a tool for sites to set goals, plan actions, and leverage resources to meet those goals to improve student outcomes. Site principals engage the community in this process by completing needs assessments, gathering feedback at staff meetings, School Site Council meetings, ELAC meetings, and surveying students in order to involve all stakeholders. Administrators analyze their school data, such as the California School Dashboard, to prioritize needs and identify gaps in student performance. Every School Plan will include goals, identified needs, annual measurable outcomes, and planned actions and strategies. School Plans are reviewed and updated annually and serves as a guide for school improvement.

M&O Update

Today a crew from American Leak detection is working collaboratively with our in-house staff to locate the remaining gas leaks at La Honda. Last Friday, our staff repaired the water main at Miguelito without any further issue. The Maintenance Direct on-line work order profile is listing 306 open work orders. Over the last week, LUSD staff closed out 65 completed work orders.

Child Nutrition Services Halloween Fun

Our Nutrition Lead at Buena Vista had a howling good time last week at the school's drive-through trick-or-treat. She used this fun event to say hello to the kids and advertise pizza day on Friday.



Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools