

Dear Families and Staff,

In our email last night we announced that all “non-essential” events and meetings are being postponed or cancelled for the next 14 school days.

We have a few updates to that announcement to share tonight:

1. **Performing arts rehearsals:** Although we are asking schools to cancel all performances for the next two weeks, we are amending our previous announcement to allow students to continue to rehearse, as this is part of their extended school day (we are defining after school programs as essentials) and will not entail contact with adults from outside the school.
2. **Middle school athletics:** Our sports programs continue to present some distinct challenges in this environment. We want families to know that in consultation with the Alameda Education Foundation (AEF), middle school sports may very well move temporarily to a “no spectators policy” in the near future. Under this provision only students, coaches, essential staff, and officials would be permitted to these contests for a period of time.
3. **High school athletics:** We are seriously considering implementing the same temporary “no spectators” policy proposed for middle school athletics for our high school program, but we are planning on additional consultation with league and North Coast Section officials over the next 24 hours. Additionally, a conference call is scheduled for tomorrow morning with superintendents across the county. During that conference call, the latest guidance on mass gatherings from Alameda County Department of Public Health will be discussed.

We know that a “no spectators” policy for AUSD high school home games would not mitigate the risks of road games and contests where, depending on decisions in neighboring districts, our students might still be playing in front of crowds or spectators. That concern almost certainly means discussion and exploration of postponement or rescheduling of high school games temporarily.

I want to be extraordinarily clear that point #2 and point #3 are NOT final decisions. I am including them in today’s message in an effort to be as transparent as possible with our community about our current thinking on complicated decisions in a rapidly changing situation. We will have additional guidance or direction within the next few days.

As we noted last night, we are aware of the disappointment and inconvenience that these cancellations and postponements may very well cause. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we develop plans and take actions to protect the safety of our students, staff, families, and community members.

Respectfully

Superintendent Pasquale Scuderi