

SANTA CLARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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March 12, 2020

Dear Santa Clara Families and Community,

Santa Clara will be open on Friday, March 13, 2020. However, all district school events, including field trips, meetings and activities will be canceled beginning March 13, 2020.

Like you, we are all concerned about the spread of the novel coronavirus and the uncertainty it's creating in our daily lives. This evening, the Ventura County Public Health Department declared a local health emergency, which will provide additional resources for coronavirus response. As a result of this declaration and in the interest of the health of our community, Santa Clara has decided to close school beginning Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20. The decision was made collectively with all other public school districts in Ventura County. We hope to reopen on Monday, March 23, but that decision will depend on the circumstances at the time. We will update families about our plans no later than Friday, March 20.

This closure is in support of the recommendations from public health officials to encourage "social distancing" to slow the spread of the virus. It is strongly recommended that students stay home during the closure as much as possible and do not gather in public places.

We are aware that this closure will result in a loss of time spent learning in the classroom. We have carefully considered options for providing education remotely during the closure, but have determined that it is not feasible at this point. One of the primary responsibilities of public schools is to provide equal opportunity for all students, and not everyone has home internet access and the necessary devices for online learning. We are currently exploring other options for at-home enrichment activities.

We understand that school closures have significant impacts on our students, families, and staff, and we hope to resume normal operations as soon as possible. We make school closure decisions with careful thought and much input from county and state officials. We thank you for your understanding during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Kari Skidmore Principal/Superintendent

