



# Gold Oak Union School District

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[www.gousd.org](http://www.gousd.org) • Meg Enns, Superintendent

**Board of Trustees:** Sheri Cook • Renee Ferguson • Kim Nida • Scott Reid • Jerald Soracco

August 6, 2020

Dear Gold Oak Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! It is hard to fathom that our school year would end the way it did and our new school year would be starting in a similar manner. I want to sincerely thank you all for your patience and understanding as we have been navigating all the ups and downs and constantly changing conditions. Since the closure in March, we have been working on plans to reopen our schools. Teachers, staff and families all recognize that learning is non-negotiable and that we need to do all we can to provide quality education in this environment. It was our hope that we would be able to start our school year with students on campus, but the conditions within our county and state just won't support that at this time. Because of the health concerns, we are starting in Distance Learning, but it is our hope that we can transition to a hybrid model at some point this fall. We will continue to work closely with the El Dorado County Public Health Department and the El Dorado County Office of Education to provide us with the information we need to make a safe and informed decision.

Beginning August 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be welcoming students back in a virtual manner. To prepare students for this opening, we will be passing out textbooks, consumable books, and Chromebooks (to those families that need to check out a device), and other items. We will also be providing directions on how students will log on to their GOUSD Google accounts to access their online learning. The check-out schedule is attached. Please be prepared with a mask as masks are required while on campus.

Teachers will be sending a welcome to the students in their classes with directions on how to log into their individual classrooms and a schedule of when they will be providing the live instruction. The Distance Learning model for our school opening is different from the Distance Learning from the spring. There will be daily live interaction with teachers and independent work. The work assigned will be standards-based and will include assessment to measure student success and growth. Look for more information about this in a separate communication from the respective schools at the end of next week. We are still making some schedule changes so we appreciate your patience.

As in the spring, those families wanting their student to receive lunch may pick up grab and go style of lunch each day school is in session between the hours of 11:00 to 2:00. Lunches may be picked up for all students, whether they are a Gold Oak or Pleasant Valley student as the Gold Oak kitchen.

While all students will be receiving instruction in a Distance Learning format for the start of the school year, it is an option for any family to sign up for long-term distance learning. This model provides parents who would not like their child to return to in-person learning this fall and rather stay in a distance learning format. If you are interested in this option for your child, please see the attached letter of introduction and the application. Due to the need to adjust staffing, all applications need to be submitted by Wednesday, August 12, 4:00 pm.

We are excited to get this year started and work with your child, even under these challenging circumstances. I understand the frustrations with changing plans, but please know we are making the best decisions for the safety of our students and staff while preparing for a quality education for our students. Please look for more information that is specific to the school site next week.

Be well,

Meg Enns  
Superintendent/Principal