



August 3, 2020

Dear Martinez Families,

I am so excited to join the Martinez family. We have such an amazing staff, wonderful kiddos, and such a supportive community. I have been overwhelmed with the welcoming I have received so far. I am so grateful and excited to embark on this next chapter with Martinez Elementary.

I also fully acknowledge that this is a very difficult time for many people for many reasons. There are so many passionate feelings about the pandemic, about social movements, the economic state of our country, and it's an election year! This is all happening while we are all still trying to do life and it has not been easy for many. While schools continue to face a difficult decision about returning to learning, there are still so many unknowns and we struggle with the fact that no matter our decision, it won't be perfect for everyone.

Even within this unrest, please know that the staff at Martinez is most excited about welcoming your children back into our school. We miss them. We miss you. Teachers do not sign up for this career to sit on a computer all day to view your 2-dimensional children. We crave interaction. We look forward to the smiles, laughter, and tears. We want to be here for your children, and we will be.

As we return, we will be focusing on the social-emotional well-being of your child. We want to make sure that they feel loved while they are at school. We want to bring back some sense of normalcy to our youngest, most vulnerable members of society. In addition, our teachers are working feverishly to prepare for the best return while also considering contingency plans in case we need to move to a hybrid or full distance learning model. This is a huge undertaking and means that most teachers will have to drastically change how they teach in our new normal.

In these times, please know that we hold the safety of our staff, students, and community as the utmost priority. From there we will navigate instructional decisions based upon data to ensure that all students will receive the learning they need -- not only for this upcoming year, but also to remediate lost learning from the spring. All we ask from our families at this time is trust and grace. While we may not be perfect in our initial implementation, know that we will continue to be better today than we were yesterday and we will always put kids first.

There is a guidance document attached for families that will outline key details about our new procedures to start this school year. If you have not signed up for District 11's "Loop" Mass Notification System, or if you do not follow us on Facebook, I encourage you to do so in order to stay up to date on ever-changing information. Information is attached about the Loop. I have an open door and welcome you to email, call, or make an appointment for a meeting if you ever need to discuss any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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