



## School Reopening Updates

Our district prepares for reopening, while we wait for the environmental signs of a safe return to school.

### Are we there yet?

Last March 13, 2020, we received an order from the Governor to “stay in place” due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. Eleven months ago, we had little understanding of the “stay in place” order, and even less understanding about how COVID 19 was about to impact our community and our district. Yet, as we distributed devices to all students and ensured connectivity for their academic engagement, we also started to design a plan to “reopen our schools.”

Looking back, I see that we have begun a plan that has evolved as the Pandemic evolved. After a number of virtual Town Halls and surveys, we envisioned a reopening plan that will bring back the most vulnerable of our students.

Unfortunately, the “re-opening” date just kept moving. **And, as of today, February 2, 2021, in the middle of the Pandemic Epicenter in Santa Clara County, we still have no date in sight.**

Yet, we continue to refine our reopening plan. Here are some of the tenets of the plan for the right time:

1. Bringing back students and staff will be in phases.
2. Preventive safety measures will be in place: Social distancing protocols, use of masks, sanitizers, and all kinds of preventive measures will be in place.
3. There will be a combination of in-person learning and distance learning.

These tenets are just a few that we have identified as pillars for reopening our schools to face to face learning.

We are grateful for everyone’s patience and consideration during these unprecedented times.

Please be certain that we uphold our students and staff safety as our priority.



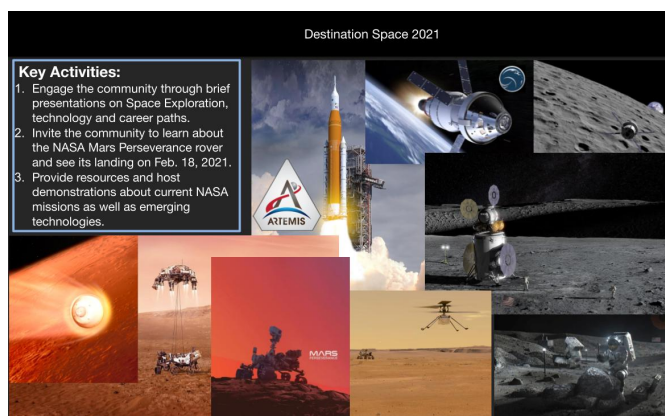
# Our Commitment to Excellence

## Black History Month and NASA Destination Space 2021

Our district's commitment to excellent education and opportunities for all students continues through innovative collaborations.

February is a month full of celebrations. From Black History Month to Valentine's Day and welcoming a New Lunar Year, the month of February brings a happy tone and the renewal of hope after a very long stretch of time struggling with the pandemic.

Our district in collaboration with the Alum Rock Educators Association and the Racial Equity Committee have launched the Expressions contest. Detailed information about the contest will be provided by each site.



And, starting on February 2, 2021, our students will have the opportunity to prepare for witnessing the landing of the Mars rover on Thursday, February 18, 2021.

All Alum Rock students will engage in a series of virtual preparation activities.

These will be offered at noon daily from February 2 through February 18, and beyond.



### **Summative ELPAC Testing - (February 1-May 31)**

Students in kindergarten through grade twelve who are classified as English learners will take the Summative ELPAC every year until they are reclassified as proficient in English. Students are tested on their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Testing begins in February and you will be notified by your child's principal of the exact schedule.

Depending on the schedule and child, some components of the test may be administered remotely. The test examiner will connect with each child by computer. To make sure that each student receives the most accurate score, we are providing the following guidelines for student testing:

1. You may assist your child with setting up the technology used to enter the test session.
2. To keep the test fair for all students, we ask that you do not talk about the questions on the test or any materials for the test with anyone before, during, or after the test.
3. No one may record the test, or use a camera or another device to take pictures of the test questions or of your child taking the test. This helps to keep the questions confidential.
4. We need to know that the test is being completed by your child without any help. To verify compliance, a web camera and microphone will be used to observe your child while taking the test. The camera is only used to observe your child and the surroundings during the test and will not record the session.
5. Please follow all instructions given by the test administrator or examiner to place the camera where your child and the child's immediate surroundings can be observed.

If your child cannot use the computer's camera, microphone, and speaker or headphone during remote testing, you may contact your child's principal for another way to administer the test to your child in-person.

You are an important part of your child's education. To help your child get ready for the test, you can:

- Read to your child, or have them read to you on a regular basis.
- Use pictures and ask your child to tell you what they see, or what is happening in each picture.
- Provide your child with opportunities to use language outside of school.
- Talk with your child's teacher about your child's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills to help support their progress.