

**Shawn Judson, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Douglas M. Claflin**  
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

**Terry Embleton**  
Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services

**Charlayne Sprague**  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction/Pupil Services



6061 East Avenue, Etiwanda, California 91739  
[www.etiwanda.k12.ca.us](http://www.etiwanda.k12.ca.us)  
(909) 899-2451 FAX (909) 803-3035

Board of Trustees

Bryнна Cadman

Robert Garcia

Dayna Karsch

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Mondi M. Taylor

April 1, 2020

Dear Etiwanda Families and Staff,

Today Governor Newsom supported the recommendation made last night by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, to keep all schools closed for the remainder of the school year. Our County Superintendent, Ted Alejandre, recommended today that all schools in San Bernardino County follow this directive due to safety concerns and the need for ongoing social distancing. At an emergency Board meeting this evening, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the closure of all schools in the Etiwanda School District through the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Our Board of Trustees understands that this decision weighs heavily on our students, parents/guardians, families and staff. While we remained hopeful that the school year could be concluded with students back on campus in May, this decision is necessary for the best interest and safety of our entire community. State and national experts predict that the impact of COVID-19 will continue to grow in April, and become even more serious in May. It is my abiding hope that our collective actions will work together to flatten the curve in the spread COVID-19.

Governor Newsom and State Superintendent Thurmond both stated, "schools are closed, but classes are in." Our team of Etiwanda educators remain dedicated to providing high quality learning opportunities for students during this closure period. From the onset of the school closure, we have continued to refine our distance learning plan. Over the next few weeks, additional interactive sessions between students and teachers will be put in place. Our distance learning plan will ensure continued growth and prepare students for their next grade level.

The extended school closure will bring many questions about end of the year activities, picking up student supplies, and many more. We will be working to address those questions in our family updates over the ensuing weeks, always with the safety of students and staff in mind. Please do not hesitate to email your child's teacher, principal or district administrator with any questions.

Over my 33 years as an employee in Etiwanda, I have had many reasons to be proud of our district, our outstanding educators, administrators and support staff, and of the partnerships we maintain with our families. However, over the last few weeks of this school closure, my sense of pride has markedly expanded. Everywhere I look, I see employees stepping in to learn different teaching methodologies, establishing new ways

to connect with parents and families, volunteering to take on duties like distributing Chromebooks, and reinventing safe ways to serve meals to our students. Parents and guardians are working hard to provide educational continuity at home for their children and continue to support their teachers and school. Things haven't always gone perfectly, but we continue to have a growth mindset and make adjustments to improve our service to our students and families.

Our district motto is "Excellence in Education". Individual and collective actions by so many have truly taken our motto to the highest level. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and District administration, I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you! We will continue to work alongside you until our community is safe, healthy and well!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Shawn Judson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent