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The 2020-21 School Year kicked off with a flurry of activity and reconnections. We were so excited to see our students – it had been such a long absence! As the first three weeks of school come to an end, we hope that you and your child have gotten to know their new teachers, readjusted to ‘school hours’, and learned to connect and use the program called Schoology. Teachers continue to learn how to transition instruction to a remote environment. We continue to work to ensure a safe and productive environment for all our children and we appreciate the strong partnerships that we are forging with our parents.

This letter is to clarify expectations as we transition into the two learning environment phases for the 2020-21 School Year.

### **Grading and reporting**

Grades have been taken during the transition period and will continue throughout 2020-21 school year. Grades will be used to determine promotion and retention for kindergarten through eighth grades. The grades will count toward student’s Grade Point Average (GPA) for high school courses. The grading system, grading scale, and number of required assignments is consistent whether students are learning remotely or face-to-face. On September 2, 2020, Progress Reports will be released through Parent Portal. This report indicates your child’s mastery of the content that has been introduced so far.

With the transition back into school and use of the remote learning, families have selected the best learning option for their children. Families who select face-to-face learning will begin attending class on campus on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

### **Face-to-Face Learning Requirements**

Our records indicate you have chosen to send your child to the campus for in-person learning. This option will require procedures for entry and exit as well as transitioning between classrooms and the interaction your child will have with lessons, teachers, and classmates. There will still be the requirement for your child to submit work and complete activities and assignments to the Schoology platform.

- Daily attendance WILL be taken, and students will have a full course-load of instruction and assignments.
- The ‘core courses’ (math, language arts, social studies, science and foreign languages) will be provided by certified teachers. The courses follow a common scope and sequence developed by a team of teachers and will cover all required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Students will be included in recordings the teacher is making to upload for remote learners. Interaction with remote learners will occur, so that children become a community of learners. Teacher led instruction is provided through prerecorded video lessons, and will be on the Schoology platform.

- Students will commit to attending in-person on campus for the remainder of the sic weeks unless they become ill. Students may revert to remote learning with notification to administration.
- Students are required to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.
- Grading, late work and make-up work policies outlined in Student Handbooks and Board Policy are followed.

### **Entrance Expectations for In-Person Learning**

La Vega ISD is committed to keeping your child safe as well as providing rigorous instruction.

Our daily schedule has changed. Please take note of our school opening and closing time.

<b>La Vega Elementary</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.</b>
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#### **Entry:**

Bus riders will enter the building using the front drive.

If you are dropping your child off at the campus, you will need to drop them off in the rear drive.

#### **Exit**

Bus riders will be picked up from the front drive of the building.

If you are picking your child up from campus, you will need to use the rear drive at dismissal.

School attendance is mandatory in the State of Texas, whether your child attends remotely or face-to-face. When your child enrolled at La Vega ISD for the 2020-21 school year you were provided information about compulsory school attendance. In accordance with Texas Education code 25.0915, as a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in parental relation to the child, you are responsible for ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Please be aware that your student is subject to truancy prevention measures as required by law.

### **Absences**

Research has shown that students missing four or more days are at a higher risk of falling behind. If your child must miss a class, they still can watch the recorded teacher instruction, turn in work, and be counted present. If your child is too ill to participate in learning, it is always a great idea to notify the teacher. Together, we form the best team for your child.

La Vega ISD records, monitors, investigates, and reports violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent without permission from face-to-face or remote school; from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction, termed “accelerated instruction” by the state; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the compulsory attendance law and subject to disciplinary action.

When a student accumulates 5 or more unexcused absences for three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period either in a face-to-face or remote learning, the school will send a notice to the student’s parent, as required by law, to set up a meeting with an Assistant Principal to discuss and develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

**Changing instructional environments (CHOICE)**

Families may find that they need to change their learning environment choice based on COVID-19 developments. These changes can only be made at the following natural transition points at the end of each grading cycle. All primary guardians will be able to request a change in learning environment during the selection period. Campus administration will notify guardians if the change can or cannot be granted based on capacity.

<b>Instructional Environment Selection Period</b>	<b>Choice Effective Date</b>
August 17 – August 27, 2020	September 8, 2020
September 1 – September 11, 2020	September 21, 2020
October 12 – October 23, 2020	November 2, 2020
December 7 – December 18, 2020	January 6, 2021
February 1 – February 12, 2021	February 22, 2021
March 22 – April 2, 2021	April 12, 2021

When parents and teachers are working together, in all sorts of roles, it’s a sure sign that we are WINNERS. Parents demonstrating for their children that adults work at learning and conquer minor challenges. This attitude and determination bring out the very best in students and helps all, regardless of race, class, or culture, realize their fullest potential. The biggest winners are the children!

I wish you an awesome and safe school year.



Sharon M. Shields, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
La Vega ISD