Superintendent's Message

Dear Livermore Community,

Our focus as educators is to teach the rising generation, preparing them to surmount challenges, and developing their abilities to create innovative and lasting change that will improve our world. Today, we as adults are facing a challenge that is reminding us of our responsibility as global citizens. Our growing understanding of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is clearly prominent in our daily work. Our district-wide focus during this time period relative to COVID-19, has been on education, prevention, preparation, and ongoing communication.

As Superintendent of Schools, I take very seriously my charge of protecting the health and safety of our students, our staff, and our families. Rest assured, I am in around-the-clock communication with medical and public health experts who are tracking and studying COVID-19 and providing regular advisories and guidance. This past week, I joined Livermore community leaders, including representatives from the City of Livermore, the Livermore Recreation and Park District (LARPD), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Sandia National Laboratories, California Water Service, Chabot-Las Positas College District, Livermore Police Department, and Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department as we shared our protocols and planned how we, as a community, will coordinate our response to current and possibly quickly changing circumstances. We will follow the direction of the public health experts to safeguard us all and help contain and slow the spread of the virus.

Our current directive and guidance from the Alameda County Public Health Department is that in the event that an LVJUSD staff member or student contracts the virus, as confirmed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the associated school site would close for a 14-day period. We recognize that closing a school would have a far-reaching impact throughout our community, yet we will do so if the Alameda County Public Health Department indicates that is the best course of action. Our City leaders support us.

As you know from previous communications from our District staff, we have heightened our cleaning protocols and re-emphasized the importance of personal hygiene habits. We recommend that anyone who feels ill stays home, and we are preparing for the possibility of continuing learning even if our customary school schedule and routines are disrupted. We will communicate with you if anything in our response changes.

The collective commitment and investment, via direct and indirect support of our schools and families, is never more evident than when we see so many community and regional leaders rallying together to ward off this virus and keep our young people healthy and safe.
With Gratitude,

Kelly Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

This video by the Child Mind Institute provides calm, reasonable advice for how to talk to children about the coronavirus.

How to Talk to Kids About the Coronavirus

Kudos to Custodians- March 11th

This Wednesday, March 11th, we shine the spotlight on our custodians, with our annual “Kudos to Custodians” Day. Especially in the face of heightened health concerns, we value the expertise and dedication of the individuals who work every day to keep our schools clean and safe. I encourage you all to take a moment this week to thank your custodian for going above and beyond to protect our health.

Math Mindset: Learning Subtraction

When people think of subtraction they often picture the “U.S. Standard Algorithm” which involves “borrowing” and “carrying” and looks like the image to the right.

While students do learn that algorithm in fourth grade, following the California State Standards and the LVJUSD adopted math curriculum, we are developing a foundation for understanding those shortcuts at a much earlier age. In second grade, our students are developing number sense. Our teachers are developing our students’ understanding and ability to manipulate and model numbers and operations.
Grade 2 standards for addition and subtraction identify what students will master:

*Add and subtract within 1000, using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method. Understand that in adding or subtracting three-digit numbers, one adds or subtracts hundreds and hundreds, tens and tens, ones and ones; and sometimes it is necessary to compose or decompose tens or hundreds.*

Our early work with students will prepare them to succeed when they encounter problems that involve subtraction. Gaining a true understanding of subtraction will prepare our students to be successful with application or “word problems.” The algorithm can be a helpful tool after students understand why it works.

We encourage parents to think beyond the definition of subtraction as “take-away.” Teachers and parents may explain subtraction that way because it seems to simplify the skill for younger students. When problems are not really “take-away” problems, however, students become confused and start to look for numbers and often guess which operation to use. When the focus is on the context and the meaning, students are more able to complete a wide variety of problems. The following charts from *Pearson Investigations* show different situations for addition and subtraction word problems.

For more information about how subtraction is taught in each grade level, see the [Math Words and Ideas](#) resources in *Pearson Investigations*. Math Words and Ideas shares videos and tutorials that explain different subtraction strategies. They are available for every grade level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULT UNKNOWN</th>
<th>CHANGE UNKNOWN</th>
<th>START UNKNOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Add To</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two bunnies sat on the grass. Three more bunnies hopped there. How many bunnies are on the grass now?</td>
<td>Two bunnies were sitting on the grass. Some more bunnies hopped there. Then there were five bunnies. How many bunnies hopped over to the first two?</td>
<td>Some bunnies were sitting on the grass. Three more bunnies hopped there. Then there were five bunnies. How many bunnies were on the grass before?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 + 3 = ?</td>
<td>2 + ? = 5</td>
<td>? + 3 = 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAKE FROM</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five apples were on the table. I ate two apples. How many apples are on the table now?</td>
<td>Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?</td>
<td>Some apples were on the table. I ate two apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples were on the table before?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Each skill is assessed at the grade levels in purple and is not assessed at the grade levels in black.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL UNKNOWN</th>
<th>ADDEND UNKNOWN</th>
<th>BOTH ADDENDS UNKNOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three red apples and two green apples are on the table. How many apples are on the table?</td>
<td>Five apples are on the table. Three are red and the rest are green. How many apples are green?</td>
<td>Grandma has five flowers. How many can she put in her red vase and how many in her blue vase?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 + 2 = ?</td>
<td>3 + ? = 5, 5 – 3 – ?</td>
<td>5 = 0 + 5, 5 = 5 + 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Each skill is assessed at the grade levels in purple.
What’s New on the LVJUSD Website

Livermore Learns is a parent education program designed to educate, inform and engage parents and guardians as they support their children throughout their education. Livermore Learns provides workshops, presentations, trainings, book clubs and webinars to help provide this education and support.

Livermore Learns is modeled after LVJUSD’s Framework for Success - a comprehensive framework that aligns academic, behavioral, and social emotional learning - to meet the needs of all students in our district. Just as our students are provided support and education in those three major areas, our parents will have opportunities to build their knowledge and skills around those areas as well.

Livermore Learns is being offered in response to parent requests for more information and education about the school system so that they could become more involved in the education of their children. Though parent engagement focus groups and surveys conducted last spring and this fall, we are offering this program in partnership with Livermore Adult Education, Horizons Family Counseling, the Livermore Public Library, and through support by the Pedrozzi Foundation.

Course opportunities will be offered seasonally. We will have a comprehensive calendar of events for the fall, winter and spring. Parents will have the opportunity to register for events they would like to attend as well as provide feedback for events attended.

Visit the website to see our Spring 2020 Livermore Learns line-up! You can register for upcoming events by clicking on the calendar! For most events, registration is not required, but appreciated as it helps us properly plan for space and other resources.

Livermore Learns Webpage

Our District’s Top Spellers
After 3 hours and over 16 rounds of intensive concentration and competition, Fritz Hohensee from Mendenhall Middle School won first place, and Abby Fung, from Arroyo Seco Elementary took second place in the 4th - 6th grade District Spelling Bee on February 3, 2020. Fritz's winning word was felicity.

At the 7th and 8th grade spelling bee, on February 11th, Sameer Dhanvantari, 7th grade student at Joe Michell K-8 School, took first place, with second place going to Marielle Mullen, also in 7th grade, from Christensen Middle School. In the 14th round, Sameer won by correctly spelling the winning word circuitous.

Each of our top four spellers participated in the Alameda County Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

We are so proud of the top spellers at each of our schools, and thankful to the teachers and staff members who coordinated the site spelling bees. Even today, when we all have “spell check” technology at our fingertips, we recognize the value of being able to spell well. (Even if it’s to double-check Siri when she suggests the wrong word!) Our top spellers are avid readers, and they become our top scholars. Congratulations to our Spelling Bee winners!
Spotlight on our Schools- Emma C. Smith Elementary

Smith Elementary Embraces Choose Love
The Choose Love formula of courage, gratitude, forgiveness & compassion is part of the educational fabric at Smith. Monthly Choose Love assemblies include the recognitions of students from all grades who exemplified the trait of the month. At the March 4th assembly, Choose Love ambassador, Lisa MacKenzie, joined Principal Meunier in recognizing students who demonstrated forgiveness. For their efforts, those students will look forward to a pizza lunch and dance party with Principal Meunier!

In addition to student recognition, teachers are celebrated through the “Paws to Appreciate Your Teacher” program. Students can nominate a teacher by submitting a 50+ word statement highlighting how their teacher shows love, kindness, hard work or safety. Each month an essay is selected and read aloud at the Choose Love assembly, and the recognized teacher receives a gift basket donated by parents.

Teacher Recruitment Fair- March 21st
We invite qualified, dedicated educators to join our district family! Our annual Teacher Recruitment Fair will be held Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in our District Office. Complete information and registration information is available in the Human Resources section of our website. (livermoreschools.org/humanresources)
Student Council in Action
Fifth grade student council members did a great job emceeing the assembly!

Recognizing Forgiveness
Mrs. Rose's TK student was one of several students recognized for forgiveness, the Choose Love focus for February.

PAWS to Appreciate Ms. Eddy
A student's essay about fifth grade teacher Ms. Eddy was read aloud at this month's assembly.

We rotate spotlighted schools so that each of our 19 schools will be featured throughout the year.

Nurse’s Station - Controlling the Spread of Illness
This cold and flu season has been a busy one, and with new information coming all the time about the coronavirus we thought it would be good to review what parents can do at home to help control the spread of illness. The following tips on everyday preventive actions come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses. Remember to clean doorknobs, keyboards, and phones!

If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice from credible sources such as the county or state health department or the CDC.

The school nurses are closely following information coming from the county and state health departments about the coronavirus. The district will continue to communicate with parents as the situation unfolds. If you would like up to date information you can find it in the Health Services section of our website (livermoreschools.org/healthservices).

Alameda County Public Health Department Information about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
Attention to Attendance- Staying Healthy Matters Most!

We continue to encourage daily attendance to promote academic success. Especially during flu season, we remind families to focus, first, on maintaining good health. Follow your physician's advice, and please keep students home if they are not feeling well.

We are temporarily suspending our "perfect attendance" awards and our school competitions for attendance. Being at school is important, but staying healthy matters more.

For a reminder on when to keep students home from school, you may review our Illness Exclusion Protocols.

Board Recognitions

February 4

At the February 4th Board of Education meeting, our Board members recognized teachers Gretchen Reynolds, science teacher at Vineyard Alternative School, and Lorra Barrette, English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Livermore Adult Education. Both teachers find creative ways to work with their students through providing enriching experiences.

The Board welcomed representatives of the Interact Clubs at both Granada and Livermore High School who had participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program. Thanks to the sponsorship of our local Rotary clubs, our high school students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills that extend their ability to make a positive impact in our community.

Our Board of Education also recognized the generous contributions by the Rotarian groups in our community by honoring Livermore Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley, the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, and Inner Wheel. In addition to supporting students who attend RYLA, our local Rotarians provide grants to our teachers, offer literacy coaching to students, support the Every 15 Minutes program, and make numerous other contributions to our students and families.
Vineyard Teachers
Vice Principal Sara Walke, Lorra Barrette, Gretchen Reynolds, Principal Carla Estrada-Hidalgo

Livermore Rotarians
Patty Crohare, Jill Duerig, Madeline McMenamin, Wendy Henderson, Carolyn Siegfried, Dennis Gambs, Kathy Coyle, Philomena Rambo

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) students: Gino Barbalinardo, Sarah Ansell, Priya Bhatia, Amaiah McIntosh, Thea Vinluan, Navitha Madineni

February 18th

At the February 18th Board of Education meeting: both Granada High and Joe Michell K-8 Schools were recognized by our Trustees.
The Career-Technical Education (CTE) teachers from Granada High School (GHS) were recognized for their enthusiasm and dedication in providing Career and Technical classes at the school. Principal Matthew Hart noted that, collectively, this group teaches some of the most exciting and relevant classes on the campus. The team has redefined and expanded the CTE course offerings at Granada. The CTE team at GHS consists of Miguel Baez, Don Danner, Busi Ellis do Amaral, and Kenon Willis.

Dr. Laura Lembo, principal of Joe Michell K-8 School, was proud to have the International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator, Ms. Karen Marguth, recognized by our Board. Ms. Marguth is a trailblazer who inspires all staff to create an IB school of which everyone can be proud.

Dr. Kevin Grier, Director of Curriculum and Special Projects, led the Board’s recognition of the MATHCOUNTS Competition winners.

Middle School MATHCOUNTS Winners
Save the Date!

- March 18: Granada Expo
- March 21: LVJUSD Teacher Recruitment Fair
- April 1: Festival of Bands 7:00 p.m. @ Livermore High
- April 2: Festival of Orchestras 7:00 pm @ Granada High
- April 6 - 13: Spring Break

The 2019-20 District calendar is available to download on our website: [2019-20 LVJUSD Calendar](#).

To be notified of upcoming events, be sure to download the Livermore Schools app from the App Store or from Google Play. Follow your schools, and see all of the calendar dates through the app!

For site-specific information on events and celebrations, please visit [school websites](#).

Background photo courtesy of the Livermore Patch.