

February 20, 2017

TO OUR ALT ED FAMILIES:

This past week has been extremely difficult for all of our Gridley families! I want to assure you that our administrators, teachers, and staff, in conjunction with local authorities, are reviewing evacuation protocols to ensure the safety of our most prized asset: our students. My personal goal for our Alternative Education students is to support their return to classes without fear or anxiety about the continuing stormy weather and potential for flooding throughout Butte County due to soil saturation. On behalf of the entire Alt Ed staff, we are looking forward to having our students with us again tomorrow!

The following information will provide you with some needed answers:

Our Superintendent Jordan Reeves has been in regular, daily contact with both local and county law enforcement, other superintendents for Butte County school districts and Tim Taylor, the Butte County Superintendent of Schools. This information, from highly reliable sources, has been shared with GUSD's Administrative Team as we have collectively developed contingency plans for emergency preparedness in case of flooding. As we return to our schools being in session, it is important to remember that our emergency planning

- **HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OROVILLE SPILLWAY INCIDENT LAST WEEK**
- **THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM FEELS CONFIDENT THAT THE OROVILLE DAM AND SPILLWAYS ARE PREPARED TO FACILITATE THE UPCOMING INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Superintendent of Schools, Tim Taylor has indicated that **ALL** schools, except those schools already scheduled to be on Winter Recess will be open with the understanding that future developments with the uncertain weather could initiate emergency situations. Butte County Office of Education is in constant contact with the Local Emergency Team and will continue to post updates as they are received from the County Officials regarding local flooding precautions. Please know that the safety of our students, their families, our staff, and our community is our first concern.

- While the Oroville Dam water levels are now in excellent shape according to the Department of Water Resources, the areas that should be prepared for flooding *due to saturated soils* include: Nord, Palermo, Thermalito, Kelly Ridge (portions of), Carriage Estates, the area between Centennial Avenue and Chico Canyon Road, and other potential low lying areas in the County

The Administrative Team for Gridley Unified has the following plans in place for an **EVACUATION ORDER DURING THE SCHOOL DAY WITH NO IMMEDIATE THREAT (initiated by Superintendent Mr. Reeves)**

**Protocol:**

Administrators will initiate school evacuation by the following steps:

- Initiates "all call" to the staff, announcing "***Students at this time will be evacuating the school due to a county evacuation order. Follow your teacher and PLEASE WALK TO THE LOCATION FOR PARENT PICK-UP.***"
- GUSD District Office will send a robo-call to parents explaining the situation and location for them to pick up their child. Teachers have their rosters and will remain in the pickup zone helping supervise until students are gone.

- All Alt Ed staff members have up-to-date student rosters and emergency contact information and have received training on these procedures.
- Water, first aid and other emergency supplies have been secured at each site.
- As students leave, the staff remains on site until all students are gone
- As appropriate, the District issues a robo-call to parents with school closure and EMS update.

**Evacuation Staging Areas:**

All students will be "checked out" and released directly to families in the following location:

**Parents will pick up Esperanza students in front of the Alternative Education Complex at the corner of Jackson Street and Hazel Ave, and meet with a staff member who will release the student to a parent or guardian who is already on our Emergency Contact list.**

If traffic controls are needed, Gridley Police and/or Public Works will assist.

If your student drives to school in their private vehicle, they will be checked out and allowed to leave.

If you wish to update your Emergency Contact names, the Form is available on the district website: [www.gusd.org](http://www.gusd.org)

If you have any other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or come by. Our mission is to provide you and your student with factual information, not rumors based on unofficial social media. Our Facebook page for Esperanza will be updated with information that support your "need to know" with accuracy, and should lessen your anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support!

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