Subject: OUSD Schools Closed to Students through Spring Break

Dear OUSD Staff,

As of 6:00 p.m. today, all schools and child development centers within OUSD will be closed to students through at least Sunday, April 5, the end of spring break. This means that there will be no Saturday school tomorrow and no regular instruction beginning on Monday, March 16. District offices will remain open but in-person public access will be restricted. All OUSD employees will continue to work and be paid throughout this period, although exact responsibilities and worksite locations may vary.

Because of the evolving nature of the coronavirus pandemic, we hope to be able to resume instruction on Monday, April 6, but will continually assess the conditions to determine the best time for reopening schools.

We know this will cause a disruption for many of our families. Our schools are an essential support for Oakland families. We are exploring with our partners what we can do to support our students and families while schools are temporarily closed.

During this three week period, OUSD will be preparing school communities in case of a prolonged COVID-19 epidemic. It is likely we will be seeing many more cases of COVID-19 in the coming weeks and months and this will require a measured, sustained response. We are all in this together. We know we need to better equip our staff who are on the front lines of serving students while doing so in the midst of this epidemic. We are taking this opportunity to deep clean our schools, plan, prepare and train staff on how to operate schools during this global health event, including practicing more universal precautions, increasing social isolation practices, and more.

We’ll be sharing more details as soon as possible. In terms of work assignments, your supervisors will be in communication soon regarding specifics for the coming weeks. In the meantime, later this afternoon we will begin posting information for employees at www.ousd.org/covid-19staff and sending communications to your OUSD email account.

I also wanted to share a copy of the message that will be sent to the community later this morning.

Respectfully,

Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent