



Contra Costa County Office of Education

77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (925) 942-3388
Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools

June 5, 2020

To our Marchus Community:

I want each of you to know how important you are to the success of our program. None of us could anticipate that this is what our last days of school would look like; for Marchus or for our world. Our school closure as a result of COVID -19 cannot and will not prevent our forward momentum and positive progress; we owe it to our children and each other to use these circumstances as an opportunity for growth and re-imagining.

I am attaching the message of solidarity and support that has come out from our CCCOE superintendent, Lynn Mackey; this message includes many links to resources which can be used for personal growth and teaching. I want to both echo Lynn's sentiments and I also want to express that I am here to listen to you and to learn from you. While it is uncomfortable for some of us to speak up, this is not a time to be silent but rather to create safe spaces for critical discussions around race as well as focused work to create an anti-racist future for our children; this is a national imperative and it is my obligation as an educational leader to move this change forward.

Although we remain physically closed, we continue to work and want to hear from our families about how we can support you, as well as to learn and unlearn alongside you and your students. Our Marchus staff are reviewing, collecting and sharing resources that can be used as tools for adults and students, alike. Please send us your feedback and reach out to us if you need support – if we cannot give what is needed ourselves, we will work to find a resource together.

At this time, our re-opening plan remains fluid; I will continue to communicate throughout the summer regarding our program and plans for our students. We will send out enrollment packets over the next few weeks and I also want to hear from you about your needs, positives and negatives about distance learning, and your feedback regarding re-opening.

Please let me know if you have questions about any of the information that is sent home and please also feel free to email me at VHoreis@cccoe.k12.ca.us or I may be reached by phone (925) 602-3420 at Marchus, if you would like to give feedback or have more of a conversation.

Stay safe, be kind to yourself and to one another. I appreciate you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Horeis', written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Horeis