December 16, 2022

Dear GJUESD Staff and Families,

I hope this communication finds you and your loved ones well! In many ways, it can be the most wonderful time of year when family and friends come together to celebrate. It is also a time to reflect on the year in passing and set goals for the new year.

I continue to reflect on the amazing contributions of our staff, parents and community. Together, we are building stronger support systems for our children. Based on District assessment data and surveys, we are starting to make some positive gains in academics and school climate coming off the pandemic. It is an honor to be part of this school community that puts the needs of our children first.

There are a few updates for you as we approach the winter break.

California School Dashboard Released

The 2022 California School Dashboard was released on December 15 after a two year pause on state testing and other accountability measures due to school closures prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Dashboard evaluates chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, English learner progress, graduation rates, English language arts and mathematics.

Statewide chronic absenteeism of students significantly increased. In 2021-22, 30 percent of students were considered chronically absent from school. Students are chronically absent if they miss 10 percent or more of the instructional days in a school year for excused or unexcused reasons. In GJUESD, 46 percent of students were chronically absent in 2021-22. We definitely need to improve student attendance. Attendance Works has great resources for families.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state law allows the 2022 Dashboard to only display the most current year of data (also known as Status). For this year only, performance levels will be reported using one of five Status levels (ranging from Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Very Low) for state measures. Please note that the Status levels associated with the Chronic Absenteeism and Suspension Rate Indicators are reversed (ranging from Very Low, Low, Medium, High, and Very High).

California State Dashboard	
Measurement	**Status**
Chronic Absenteeism	Very High (30% chronically absent)
Suspension Rate	Medium (3.1% suspended)
English Learner Progress	Medium (50% making progress toward English language proficiency)
Graduation Rate	Medium
English Language Arts	Low (12 points below standard)
Mathematics	Low (52 points below standard)

Galt Joint Union Elementary School Dashboard	
Measurement	**Status**
Chronic Absenteeism	Very High (46% chronically absent)
Suspension Rate	Medium (1.7% suspended)
English Learner Progress	Medium (51% making progress toward English language proficiency)
Graduation Rate	N/A
English Language Arts	Low (10 points below standard)
Mathematics	Low (40 points below standard)

Message From Sacramento County Public Health

COVID-19 case rates have been on the rise. Winter break and holiday celebrations mean gathering with friends and family, sharing air, and exchanging germs. As students and staff prepare for a break, now is a great time to remind them to take steps to stay healthy and safe:

- Consider masking up in indoor public places
- Cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands frequently
- Stay home when sick, whether it's COVID-19 or something else that can make others sick

Students and staff are encouraged to utilize COVID-19 home test kits prior to returning from break:
- · Test the night before or morning of return
- · Repeat about two days later
- · If positive for COVID-19, isolate at home and follow [The Decision Tree](#)

New GJUESD Governance Team
We welcome Annette Kunze and Katherine Harper as new School Board Trustees. Wesley Cagle will serve as President, Traci Skinner will serve as Vice President, and Casey Raboy will serve as Clerk.

I wish you and your family a wonderful, safe holiday season and a happy new year!

Genuinely,

Superintendent