



August 2, 2020

Dear Jackson Magnet families:

It brings me great pleasure to welcome all of you to Jackson STEM Dual Language Magnet Academy and to the opening of the 2020-21 Academic Year! I hope you have had a pleasant summer and the opportunity to enjoy your family despite the rising concerns surrounding the increased spread of COVID-19. I am looking forward to interacting with new and returning students and families, both virtually and in person. I am grateful to the PUSD leadership and the members of the Board of Education for making prudent decisions that will provide us with the tools we need to effectively provide instruction in a virtual setting. At the same time, we will open schools in a manner that will maintain the health and safety of our entire community with all our students participating exclusively in remote learning. We will transition our students into classes using a hybrid model of instruction (a combination of in-person and remote teaching) no sooner than October 19th as health conditions allow, according to the Pasadena and LA County Health Departments and the governor's office. There will be an option for students to remain in the remote-only program per parent request.

It is truly incredible to be anticipating my eleventh year of serving our school as principal! Our entire community is committed to meeting the needs of the whole child in a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented situation for educators that may not be ideal, but it also provides a unique opportunity to develop creative solutions to modern issues facing our education system. I am confident that we will devise innovative ways to effectively instruct our students while working remotely even as we prepare to open our physical doors once again.

Parents will soon be able to make a definite choice between instructional settings: a remote-only option or a hybrid model of in-person and remote learning. Either way, students will benefit from a streamlined Scope and Sequence with an adapted curriculum that focuses on the key standards needed for subsequent academic success. The curriculum our teachers will be using, ASU Prep Digital, is specially designed for remote instruction, and they will receive initial training before August 17th on its implementation as well as follow-up training throughout the school year. The Canvas Learning Management System has a great deal of flexibility, and WebEx will provide a stable platform for students to engage in live virtual sessions with their teachers.

I am delighted to introduce several additions to our instructional staff, dedicated teachers who are eager to support our exceptional team and help us in our work to realize our school vision. Please join me in warmly welcoming the newest members of our Dolphin family:

Elaine Serna (Grade 3 Spanish DLIP Teacher) Room B203, **John Yang** (RSP Teacher) Room G103
Karla Sanchez (Health Clerk) Health Office

New to dual language immersion, Elaine Serna is joining our team after having successfully taught a 3rd grade class at Franklin last year. John Yang was assigned to Jackson several years ago when our RSP program required a part-time teacher, and we are happy to have him back. Karla Sanchez is an experienced health clerk who worked for several years at Madison and, most recently, Jefferson Elementary.

We are very fortunate to gain such accomplished educators as well as a skilled and fully trained health clerk at Jackson Magnet. I am certain the newest members of our team will infuse their singular energy and spirit into our school environment and affect continued positive change.



The first day of school will be on Monday, August 17th. A daily remote learning schedule with exact start and end times will be available very soon. The virtual day on Tuesday through Friday will include 240 minutes of instruction with a balance of live, teacher-led lessons in large and small group settings, group projects, and independent work. Mondays will be shorter days to accommodate the need for staff meetings and collaborative planning time for teachers.

The main office staff at Jackson Magnet will officially be on duty and working remotely as of Monday, August 3rd, but the office itself will remain physically closed. If you have any questions, you can leave a voicemail message for the office manager, Jessica Nava, and she will return your call as soon as she can. I encourage you to email us, as well. Please find my email address below, along with that of our office staff members and instructional coach:

Rita Exposito, Principal: exposito.rita@pusd.us **Jessica Nava**, Office Manager: nava.jessica@pusd.us
Tania Gomez, Attendance Clerk: gomez.tania@pusd.us
Sandra Banuelos, Instructional Coach: banuelos.sandra@pusd.us

Registration for new students will continue to be online; therefore, please encourage your friends and family members who have not enrolled and live in our attendance area to visit the virtual enrollment page [here](#).

Instead of holding our annual “Teacher Reveal” event this year, we are encouraging parents to create a Parent Portal account to view their children’s teacher, released after August 10th. Please follow the directions included below the “Noteworthy Events” page to set up an account.

Chromebooks for new students and textbooks and other materials for all students will be distributed safely (per carefully designed protocol) during the week of August 10th at Jackson, most likely on August 14 and 15, giving us the opportunity to unpack and prepare the materials in an organized and thoughtful manner. Details and schedules will be forthcoming and will be sent out as soon as they are available.

The annual Kindergarten Parent Orientation will take place this year in two parts. On Monday, August 10th, we will release a prerecorded message, sent via communication blast, introducing our kindergarten teachers. We will also post the video on our school website. **All kindergarten parents are invited to take part in a live virtual information session on Saturday morning, August 15th from 10:00-11:00 a.m.** This event is intended for the participation of parents only, allowing the DLIP teachers to speak both English and Spanish for the benefit of all our families (and begin the year practicing language separation with their students). I will send our kindergarten parents a WebEx link to Saturday’s virtual meeting.

I hope you enjoy the last few days of summer vacation with your children. I look forward to the challenges we will encounter this year and view them as an opportunity for growth. The administration, teachers, staff, parents, and community members at Jackson will work as a team to devise creative strategies in unusual circumstances and, most importantly, continue to foster an atmosphere of support and unconditional love. It is within such an environment that we can best awaken and nurture a deep appreciation for learning among our students and help them confidently develop positive social-emotional skills now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Rita Exposito

Rita Exposito, Principal

Upcoming Events in August

Date	Times	Event	Notes
August 3	8:00-4:00	Office Staff on Duty	Working Remotely and In-Person as Needed
August 10	7:00pm	Release Kindergarten Welcome Video	Meet our Kindergarten Team! Release of Pre-Recorded Video Introducing our Kindergarten Teachers
August 12	TBD	Teachers Officially Report to Duty	WELCOME to the 2020-21 Academic Year! Virtual District-Wide Professional Development
August 13	TBD	Remote Site-Based PD Day	Updates and Teacher Collaborative Planning Time
August 13 & 14	TBD	Learning Materials Distribution	Distribution of Chromebooks (New Students Only), Textbooks, and Other Materials
August 15	10:00-11:00am	Kindergarten Parent Orientation	Live Virtual WebEx Meeting to Orient Kindergarten Parents
August 17	TBD	First Day of School	Shortened Day Exact Schedule TBD

Please follow the instructions to create a Parent Portal account!

1. You will need to send a completed Parent Access Form and photocopy of your ID to nava.jessica@pusd.us to receive your Verification Pass Code. The Parent Access Form can be found by clicking on the links below:

English: <https://www.pusd.us/Page/6168>

Spanish: <https://www.pusd.us/Page/6638>

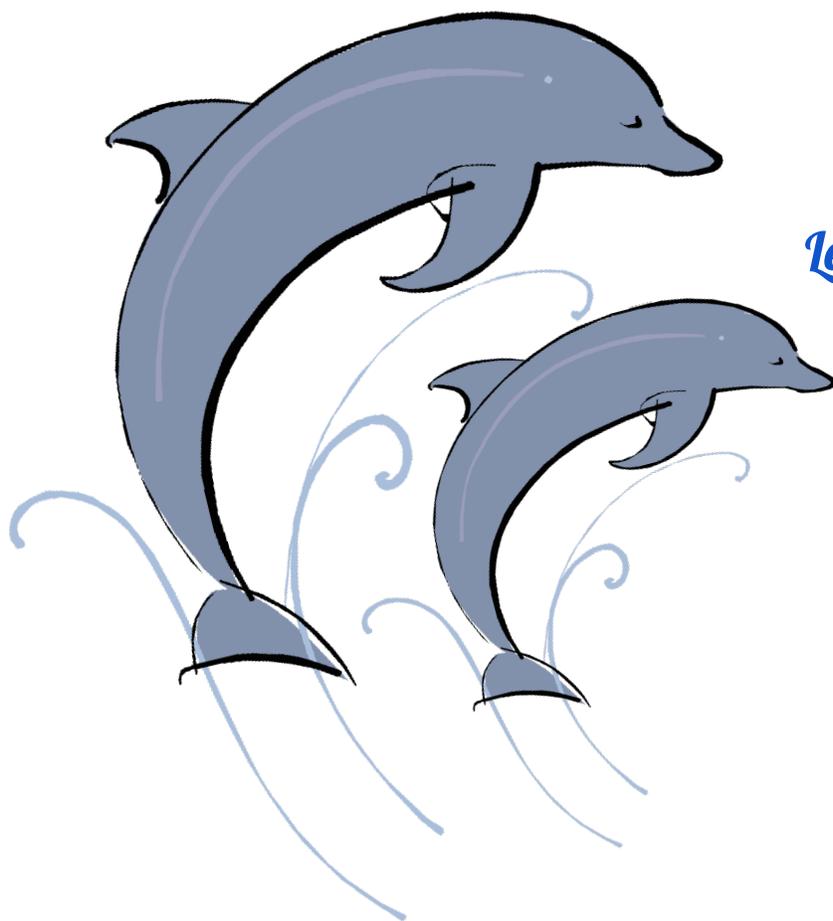
* Photocopy ID (Acceptable Forms: DMV ID/Driver's License, Passport, Green Card, Consulate ID).

2. You will receive an email with a verification pass code and step by step instructions on creating your NEW account.



Jackson Magnet
STEM Dual Language Academy

- ❖ Already have a parent portal account but can't remember your password? Click on one of the following links:
[English: https://www.pusd.us/page/7867](https://www.pusd.us/page/7867)
[Spanish: https://www.pusd.us/Page/8638](https://www.pusd.us/Page/8638)
- ❖ Already have your Student ID#, Primary Phone #, AND Verification Code (VPC)? You are ready to log in by clicking on: [Portals](#)



Leaping to Success !