

Hamilton Unified School District

620 Canal Street
P.O. Box 488
Hamilton City, CA 95951

Charles Tracy, Superintendent

(530) 826-3261
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www.husdschools.org

November 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Staff,

Over the last several days since the Camp Fire started, administrators from all Glenn County Schools have been in conversation with the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools. These conversations consisted of concerns regarding additional enrollment from displaced families, facility and transportation needs, food service and support services as well as air quality. Our main concern is the safety of our children.

As of this morning, Tuesday, November 13, 2018 the total air particulate is below 125 in Hamilton City. Chico and other east locations are well above this limit. We are closely monitoring the particulates in our community and have taken steps to limit student exposure. We understand that during late afternoons and evenings this number will rise due to the dew point causing the air to become heavier.

Yesterday, Monday, November 12, 2018 during a lengthy conference with the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools in consultation with all Glenn County District Superintendents, it was determined that the projected air quality was sufficient to warrant opening school. Hamilton Unified School District (out of an abundance of caution) has purchased some particulate masks and will continue to purchase masks as they become available (please note that supplies are limited). If you have access and can send your child with a N-95 particulate mask, we encourage you to do so.

Questions have risen on the topic of ‘when do we close school?’ First, a state of emergency needs to be declared by the Glenn County Office of Emergency Services (in Glenn County that is the County Sheriff). Secondly, the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools would have to grant the school closure based on the state of emergency that exists in Glenn County. If no state of emergency is declared, the power to close schools is limited for the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools. The Glenn County Superintendent of Schools in consultation with school districts in Glenn County, make a determination of need. In our case this week, it was determined that students in filtered air provided in classrooms could be a safe and secure source of breathable air for all. Typically, public buildings have a higher standard of filtration than are found in most homes.

We continue to monitor the air quality and support students and staff with limited movements thought the day. We will continue to have constant briefings with the Glenn County Superintendent of Schools daily to ensure the safety for all.

The Hamilton Unified School District will provide a safe, rigorous, and engaging educational experience that promotes student academic success, respect, and citizenship in a caring environment.

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Hamilton Unified School District will comply with the following Board Policy 3514 and Administrative Regulation 3514 which addresses poor air quality as follows:

“Outdoor Air Quality

The Superintendent or designee may monitor local health advisories and outdoor air quality alerts, including forecasts of ozone levels, particulate pollution, and/or ultraviolet radiations levels.

When every these measures indicate a significant health risk, the Superintendent or designee shall communicate with each principal so that outdoor activities, especially those requiring prolonged or heavy exertion, may be avoided, limited in duration, or modified as necessary for all persons or for persons who may be particularly susceptible to the health risk involved.”

In compliance with the aforementioned Board Policy and Administrative Regulation, I have issued a rainy day scheduled for Hamilton Elementary School, limiting outside activities to restroom visits, to and from classrooms and lunch in the cafeteria. At Hamilton High School all physical education classes are to be held inside and the passing periods are to be to and from each class with limited outside activities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles Tracy,
District Superintendent



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