

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District

P.O. Box 1397 • Groveland, CA 95321

Phone: 209-962-5765 • Fax: 209-962-6108

Wynette Hilton, Superintendent
Governing Board

Scott Rexwinkle-Clerk • Kelly Rivera

Dawna Dougherty- President • Shannon Abbott • Patricia Pollock

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If the pandemic has shown us anything, it's the importance of relationships; friends, family, neighbors, and our school community have come together like never before. We were reminded of the importance of our schools as a place of learning and support for our students and families. And our campuses wouldn't be open now without your support.

The pandemic has made the work of running schools much more complicated. In many ways, we must now function as a health department —something schools have never been asked to do before — while also continuing our efforts to connect students with the resources they need for learning and growth.

We understand that families and students may have strong emotions and questions about COVID-19 safety measures, including vaccine and testing requirements. However, keeping children home from school to protest a COVID-19 vaccine requirement announced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, as posts on some social media outlets are suggesting, would only result in lost learning time for our students. Our school funding will not be impacted by absences. But our children will be. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school.

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District has no control over the proposed mandate, which would treat the COVID-19 vaccine similarly to the 10 vaccines on the list already required by California law for students attending K-12 schools. The mandate would not apply until COVID-19 vaccines are given full authorization by the Food and Drug Administration. Exemptions for both medical reasons and personal belief would be available, unless the state legislature votes otherwise.

From providing regular meals, safe spaces, emotional and mental health supports, trusted adults, and positive interaction with their peers, the importance of ensuring routines and consistency with school time can't be overstated. People may disagree about the methods schools are required to follow, but I hope we can all agree that keeping our schools safe and open is what's best for our students.

Together, let's make sure your child has what they need to thrive and be successful in school this year.

Sincerely,



Wynette Hilton Superintendent-Principal Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District