



# Hart-Ransom Union School District

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Sean Greene  
*Principal*  
Charter School

## NOTICE OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

March 15, 2020

Dear Hart-Ransom Community,

I am writing to let you know that in light of some new guidance that has come from the governor's office today regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus), I have made the decision to close our schools in the Hart-Ransom Union School District beginning this Thursday, March 19, 2020. The district's Board of Trustees is in full support of this decision. At this time, we are planning to reopen our schools on Monday, April 20. However, we will continue to monitor the situation during the upcoming weeks and determine whether a return to school on April 20 remains a prudent course of action. We will provide you with updates as new information becomes available, and we will let you know if our schools need to stay closed beyond April 20.

My highest priority continues to be the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. I want you to know that the decision to close our schools has not been made lightly, and I have made this decision in consultation with the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer, as well as the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools and the superintendents of the other school districts within Stanislaus County. While the guidance of the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer (PHO) had previously been to keep schools open in our county, the PHO is now supportive of the decision to close schools, particularly in light of the new guidance that we received from the governor today.

I want you to know that I completely understand and empathize with the concerns of our community about this, and I understand that the closure of our schools will be helpful in some ways and challenging in other ways. I will always do what I believe is best and right for our students, staff, and community, and I want to thank you in advance for your support as we enter this uncharted territory together. Over the next couple of days, we will be working out a number of details about all this, and we will communicate with people about matters that directly affect them.

Some of you may be aware that I was in Europe a week ago; specifically in Slovenia and London. Since then, in just the last few days, our federal government has implemented new travel restrictions from Europe, which has caused some people to be concerned about me and my presence on our school campuses. I remain healthy and strong with no signs or symptoms of illness, but I do want people to feel comfortable on our school campuses this week. Out of respect for any concerns that people may have about me and my recent trip to Europe, I will be working off-site for the next few days, and I will not return to our campuses until sometime after our schools are closed. I will continue to lead the district from off-site, and I will be working with staff to address any issues or needs that may arise.

I want to thank our dedicated staff and wonderful community for your help and support during these uncertain times. I believe that the Hart-Ransom School District is one of the best there is, and I know that many people agree with me on that. I look forward to the time when we can reopen our schools and resume the excellent education of our students that you have come to expect from us. In the meantime, I wish you all comfort, health, and safety.

Best regards,

Matthew Shipley  
Superintendent