



WEST VALLEY
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
PRESCHOOL - 8TH

West Valley Christian Academy Preschool & Cougar Club

1790 Sequoia Blvd

Tracy, CA 95376

msmith@wvcapreschool.com

May 7, 2020

Dear WVCA Preschool and Cougar Club Families,

We hope you are all doing well, and staying home to stay safe. I know our previous communication was somewhat somber due to the unknown date of our return to school. I felt that it was important to share an update due to the current announcements that the State of California is moving into Stage 2 of reopening. Upon this announcement late last week, we became very hopeful once again that we could be returning to school, but concluded that no changes applied to our programs. I also know it is confusing and conflicting to hear that child care is an essential workforce, and can be open, however those statements are not as simple as they are delivered to the general public. I hope this communication provides clarity, and a specific road map to WVCA Preschool and Cougar Club's reopening.

First I want to clarify who and how a child care can be open. Open Child Care Centers are required to follow Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regulations through Provider Information Notices, referred to as PINs, and are held accountable, and liable to implementing those regulations for the primary purpose of ensuring the health and safety of children and families. The current PINs, guidelines, and regulations provided by CCL, CDC, SJCDPH, as well as the City of Tracy, indicate that child care centers are open only for children of essential workforce, with extreme rigid regulations that are at a disaster response level of implementation, and are intended for the Pop-up sector of child cares to ensure doctors, nurses, and other front line workers can go to work in response to COVID-19. You can review these guidelines at www.cdss.ca.gov. As you can see from the general summary of our current situation, it is impossible for us to return to normal functioning, and have not been provided updated regulations or guidance that is adaptable for a new normal. Our work sector is still in disaster response mode, and we will not be able to return until regulations and guidelines shift allowing us to do so. **We are prepared and motivated to adapt to reasonable "new normal" guidelines, and hope to open as soon as we can.**

Currently, state and federally funded preschools and child care centers are closed. They have been ensured their funding, and are making decisions based on health and safety. We look to these centers as examples of best practice in situations like this, and upon their reopening, we will look to them again for health and safety measures when children are present. Open child care centers are primarily private sector centers, and pop-up with waiver from the State. If you have questions regarding schools you've seen open, or why we maintain closure you are welcome to email msmith@wvcapreschool.com.

In the meantime, we are offering **Preschool Distance Learning** and **Cougar Virtual Summer Camp**. We want to maintain our school community connections, be a bridge for student's socialization connections, keep brains thinking, and bodies active through this Shelter in Place Time. Our dedicated teaching staff have been working tirelessly developing these new programs that also enrich home and family life. We are approaching week 2 of preschool distance learning with positive feedback from families. We encourage you to explore the program offerings at www.wvcapreschool.com, and consider enrollment.



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If your family is facing any hardship we also want to help. Our Tracy Community Church community has resources available to support you, as well as offering you links to community supports to ensure your family's needs are maintained. Don't hesitate to reach out to us. We want to be there for you.

We will continue to monitor the reopening stages of our State, and gather updated regulations as they are released to develop our next steps. As developments occur, we will continue to communicate via notifications like these to ensure you are fully informed. We maintain hope and faith that this is temporary, and all God's plans are for good. You are all in our prayers, and look forward to seeing you all soon!

In His Service,

Michele Smith, M.S. Ed. ECE

WVCA Preschool & Cougar Club Director