



Ukiah Junior Academy

# Grapevine

August 27, 2020

## Principal's Corner

UJA Parents,

This has been a crazy week for our family. Last Sabbath afternoon my wife (Debbie, our first grade teacher), broke three different bones in her ankle. With all the fires causing hospitals in Napa and Lake county to evacuate our Ukiah Adventist Health facility had no beds available for Debbie to get her surgery to repair the damage. She was able to get her surgery done yesterday and is now home recuperating. She has been getting ready for distance learning at home on the couch with help from our daughter who came for a few days to help out. Many have been praying for her and we both want to express our gratitude for those prayers.

Last Friday our application for a waiver to have in-person instruction for grades K-6 was approved by our local health office and was sent on to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for final approval. We have not yet heard from CDPH whether or not our waiver application has been approved. For this reason UJA will begin our school year with distance learning on Monday, August 31.

So, how will we get this going?

This coming Monday, August 31, will be a day for families to come to the school campus and pick up packets that our teachers have been preparing for the start of the year. Packets will include chromebooks for each student from first through tenth grade. We want each student to take a chromebook home to use for school sessions rather

than using one of your home devices because we will still have filtering and control capabilities for these chromebooks while they are in use at home. Each chromebook will need to be set up with a connection to your home WiFi.

Books and other materials for the start of instruction will be ready for pick-up as well. You will hear from your student's teacher when and where these packets will be available for pick-up on Monday, August 31. Also, either in the packets or in an email, you will find a schedule for the school day for that classroom. There will be three (grades 1-2) or more (grades 3-10) virtual/distance live interactive classrooms session each day through Zoom. Schedules and instructions on how to get started will be provided by each classroom teacher.

We will begin distance learning sessions on Tuesday, September 1. Please try to find a place for each of your children to use for school. We will be insisting that students login to their class sessions with their cameras on and ready to learn. Our teachers have been working hard to get a good start to our year and make the best of a strange situation with smiles on their faces, hoping to spread some joy into your homes.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

Please continue to pray for UJA. We want more than anything to love your children well, and teach them well, even when we have to do it from a distance.

God bless,

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