January 23, 2022

Dear CUSD Community,

Claremont Unified School District is cancelling classes for tomorrow, January 24, 2022. Please DO NOT send your students to school and keep off all campuses. School offices will be open, but please conduct all business via phone and email, if possible. The District Office will remain open and available for in-person business.

It has been a difficult weekend for all Claremont residents. The windstorms created havoc, left many residents with no power for days, and in some cases, caused major damage to family’s homes. We have had District staff and contractors at all sites over the weekend and have been able to assess, and initially respond to, only immediate dangers at our school sites. A full assessment of our campus’ safety is needed.

Currently, we do not have power at two of our school sites, Mountain View and El Roble, and El Roble is the site of our Central Kitchen, which is responsible for meals at all school sites. CUSD will be unable to serve breakfast or lunch tomorrow.

The safety of our staff and students is our utmost priority. Tomorrow staff will be conducting a full assessment of our campuses, as we have concerns about loose limbs in trees, plumbing issues from uprooted trees, and infrastructure impacted by the power outages and fallen trees. The Claremont City Council is considering a declaration of a state of emergency and we will coordinate with the city to best support our families.

Our Board of Education will meet in a special closed session meeting tomorrow evening to discuss the current status of schools and the closure. I have been consulting with the Los Angeles County Office of Education over the weekend and received support for the closure late Sunday afternoon. Because this is considered a “state of emergency” closure, we will not be required to make up the day at the end of the year.

We also understand this is a pressure-packed weekend and week for our high school students facing finals. We are working with CHS and SAHS for ways to help our students who have been significantly impacted by this emergency.

Teachers will be available tomorrow via email and Canvas (or other apps staff use for classroom correspondence) and we encourage students to make good use of the day to catch up, study for finals and stay engaged.

It is our intention to reopen campuses on Tuesday morning.

Our Covid Testing will remain at El Roble on Monday at 2:00 p.m. The Sycamore testing site will be cancelled so all those that need testing should go to El Roble. If power is not restored prior to 2:00 p.m., we will move the clinic outdoors at El Roble – look for the signs & lines.

Thank you for standing with us during another difficult moment,

Sincerely,

Jeff Wilson
Superintendent