



**Superintendent**  
**Christopher Downing, Ed.D.**

**Board of Education**

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October 21, 2021

Dear AESD Families,

The following update is provided to keep you informed regarding the Anaheim Elementary School District:

**Update on Weekly COVID-19 Data for Anaheim**

Our District continues to prioritize the health and safety of stakeholders as our top priority. Although California no longer reports data within the tiered colored system, the City of Anaheim updates their data weekly. There were 178 new cases reported across Anaheim's seven ZIP codes for the seven days through October 19, down from 233 the week prior.

If your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep him/her home and contact your child's health care provider. Please contact your school to report the absence; a COVID-19 related absence is excused. If someone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently under quarantine or self-isolation, your child should follow the guidelines from the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) on how long to remain at home and when to return to school.

**November In-Person Coffee Chats**

Based on the improved COVID-19 data for Anaheim, AESD schools will host an in-person Coffee Chat during the month of November. In alignment with CDPH guidelines and to prioritize the safety of all, persons who participate in person are required to show evidence of being fully vaccinated and will be required to wear masks. All sites will continue to provide virtual access for the meeting to support those parents unable to attend in person. Principals will communicate information specific to your school in the coming weeks.

**STEAM Reading Challenge**

The **S.T.E.A.M Race to Space Reading Challenge** is an out-of-this-world adventure encouraging students to explore the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math. It is being put on by the Orange County Children's Book Festival and approved by OCDE. Check out everything you need to know on their website: <https://www.readsteam.org/>.

Every student who completes the reading challenge will be honored with a personalized congratulatory certificate, a one-day pass to OC Discovery Cube, a book marker from SONIC with a free ice cream coupon and a S.T.E.A.M Race to Space Reading Challenge pencil.

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If you are also interested in having your student(s) participate in the reading challenge.

You can enroll your child/ren: <https://readsteam.beanstack.org/reader365>. The app will be active when the reading challenge launches on October 22. There are some really amazing prizes to win.

**Access to Free COVID-19 testing for staff and students**

COVID-19 testing is available at Key School on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons for all AESD staff and students. Click [here](#) to register. You may also find community testing resources throughout Anaheim at <https://www.anaheim.net/5652/Testing>.

On behalf of our AESD Board of Education and staff members, thank you for your ongoing support of the Anaheim Elementary School District.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Christopher Downing  
Superintendent