

Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

Miramonte Class of 2020



Amin Saeed Abdi
Ashley Lynette Abramson
Nicholas Antonio Acevedo
Juliet Elizabeth Adams
Hayden Alyssa Aitchison
Luke Aidan Allen-Walmisley
Abigail Ruth Allison
Adilson Vicente Amado
Areana Vicente Amado
Emery Janel Anderson
Caroline Elizabeth Andrews
Nisha Sarah Andrews
Ryan Paul Ansel
Gregory Brent Austin
Ryan David Banisadr
Kent Patrick Barbir
Sierra Madison Barnes
Sean Michael Barry
Ava Elizabeth Bartosiewicz
Rose Anna Bathgate
Nicholas P Beaham
Elizabeth Whitney Becker
Lucy Rain Becker
Alissa Rose Beckerman
Daryan S Behtash
Brinly Kathinka Bell
Freddie Bell
Billy Paul Beltran
Lauren Alexis Benedict
Gabriel Joseph Bensusen
Caroline Ann Berg
Kenya Marie Bertoli
Jeffrey Alexander Biggers
Ian M Blacklock
Kate Marie Blanchard
Jackson F Blazona
Kyra Elise Bommarito
Anthony Jerome Bradley
Dominic Thomas Bradley
Thalia Roze Bradley
Jacob Andrew Brewster
Quenton P Breznikar
Eavan Katherine Bronfman
Rhys David Bubrick
Isla Rose Burch
Theodore Harrison Burnick

Reed Dennis Callister
Samuel Thomas Camp
Zosimo Thaddeus Briones Canilao
Isabella Francesca Capozzi
Keshini Leila Cardozo
Seth Douglas Carlson
Matthew Brody Carrington
Krista Lynn Casimere
Alise Chavanapanit
Marisa S Chow
Justin S Chu
Rebecca Clauson
Emily Katherine Cohen
Natasha Rae Cohen
Jennifer Grace Coletta
Vincent R Collado
Aidan T Collins
Emma Kaitlyn Collins
Maxwell Shannon Coons
Isaiah Joseph Cornett
Abigail Carter Crinks
Rose Marie Sumner Crowe
Declan John Curran
Yasmeen Jade Dao
Alexander DaRosa
Blanca Marina Davila Gil
Athena Aristeia Davis
Justin M DeBusschere
Anna Sarai DeWitt
Claire Au Draeger
Sofia Elizabeth Dreesen
Pema Kara Duffy
Abby Sakurai Dulski
Benjamin Duncan
Milla Dianne Elliott
Carson Jay Essabhooy
Julian Chen Fairbanks
Stefano Robb Farnedi
Sarah Walshe Fellner
Stewart Ellis Fetzko
Ava Christine Fischler
Phoenix Sky Flum
William Geoffrey Fook
Mackenzie Faye Forkas
Catherine McKenna Foy
Audrey Jean French
Marcus Fritzen
Emma Katherine Fuller
Alison Ying Gan
Eric Yuan Gan
Willard Charles Gant
Jeffrey Gao
Alec Jackson Garcia
Giovanni Robert Gasparini
Fox Xavier Gerungan

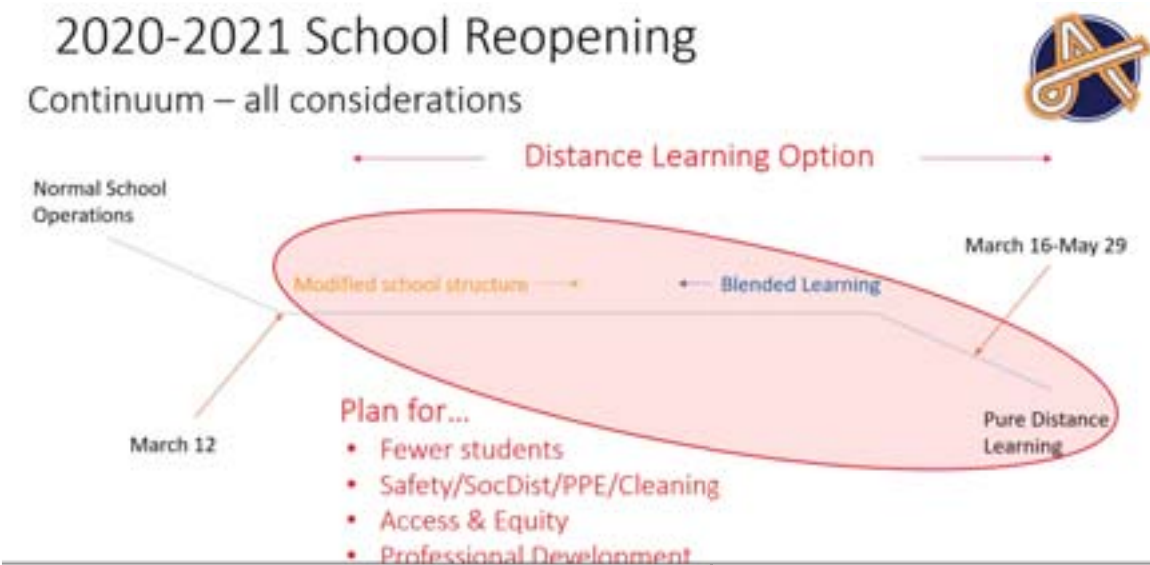
Melanie France Ghesquiere
Natasha Camille Ghesquiere
Michael Andrew Giertz
Eli Joseph Goldsmith
Jordan Isabelle Goularte
Sabrina N Grant
Olivia Lyn Grillo
Anika Grimsrud
Mackenzie Copass Gripp
Richard Gross
Sophie Marie Guymon
Bryce Dalton Hall
Tiana Dones Hardin
Sonya Ming Harrison
Joseph Patrick Henderson
Davis James Henningsen
Taylor Gibson Hernandez
Dylan Pierce Kai'ulu Hirst
Oscar Samuel Hodder
Nicholas Christopher Hoeffel
Johnathan Frederic Chua Hollis
Gunnar Niels Holm
Blake Gordon Hoover
Brady Clark Hoover
Tess Lorraine Hornbeck
Campbell Charles Hoskins
Jasmina Jin Mei Howell Young
Nicholas Matthew Hsu
Anna Gail Hyman
Katherine Rose Ingrey
Mitchell Allen Ishii
Imai Zari Jones
Deborah Yoko Jung
Lydia Eva Jung
Zachary Edward Justus
Grant M Karren
Peyton Lynn Kelleher
Emma Helen Kelly
Amir Iqbal Khan
Chanmin Kim
Sophia Colette Kofoed
Alexander Alexandrovich Kogan
Melody Koochakhani
David Stanley Kott
Tatiana Ariana Kreutzelman
Isabelle Kathleen Krochmal
Logan Scott Krumholz
Owen Andrew Kutzscher
Jack Leland LaCour
Alexander J Lagaay
Shailli Lakhoria
Rayna Janae Landry
Julia Alice Lang
Alanna Elyse Lausch
Peter Lee

Madison Claire Lehman
Sara Grace Lehman
Diego Giovanni Leiva
Ashleigh Taylor Lightbody
Julia Velozo Lima
Benise Limon
Cecelia Grace Linardon
Alvin Liu
Catherine Liu
Ethan Alexander Luckenbach
Shaune Teresa Lundstrom
Yichao Ma
Mykaangela Taladro Mabandos
Konrad Daniel Mader
Jonathan Daniel Mahoney
Adrienne Louise Manheimer
Russell L S K Mapaye
Julien Cobalt Marley
Casey Straits Marriner
Jackson Filips Marriner
Julia Renee Martin
Liam Patrick Ashe McBride
Seamus M McCarthy
Margaux Ella McDonald
Miguel Da Cunha McGrath
Joseph L McIntyre
Hailey Rose Mead
Olivia Faith Means
Grayson James Meckfessel
Matthew Samuel Meredith
Naomi Mesfin
Alexander Metz
Miriam Rae Michels
Kaitlyn Leigh Miller
Bennett Steven Millham
Grace Eloise Mills
Seiji Minowada
Leyla G Moeen-Ziai
Liam Joseph Morris-McDermott
Chloe Elizabeth Morrison
Jack James Murray
Leo Joseph Naylor
James Joseph Neff
Justin Paul Livingston Nelson
Kathleen Jean Nelson
Hailey Nicole Nestal
Aki McKenzie Neugebauer
Ethan Nguyen
Alec Joseph Niehaus
Lauren Lee Nixon
Tobias Wyn Noyes
Cayley Anne O'Brien
Matthew Benjamin Darwin O'Brien
Finn Oliver O'Daniel
Jane Kimberly Oliver

Marcus Patrick O'Neill
Lauren Priscilla Owens
Jackson Lee Oxner
Noah I Packer
Gabriel Edward Padilla
Jackson Wells Painter
Anna Claire Palamountain
Owen Pan
Amrita Pannu
Andrew Marc Patten
Tatiana A Pechnikova
Travis Martin Pejza
Lyle William Goncalves Pembe
Benjamin Antonio Persinger
Anna Elizabeth Pitt
Katherine Diana Pope
Joshua Justus Radlow
Natalia Ramirez
Dillon Patricia Randall
Zoha Rehman
Miguel M Rezapour
James Murray Richardson
John Marshall Rickson
Christopher James Riney
Matthew Ryan Ritchey
James Griffin Roche
Erin Alexandra Roemer
Katheryn Roman
Elena Lucinda Roth
Genevieve Anne Rovetti
Christian Alexander Roy
Ilana Miller Rubin
Isadora Haiching Ruiz
Julia Setsuko Sato
Alexandria Rose Savar
Ella Katherine Say
Patricia Sierra Scanlan
Alton Gray Schmitt
Katrina Theresa Schrittwieser
Bryn Merie Severson
Anika Elise Shandalov
Jenny Shen
Trevor Anthony Sidlauskas
Matthew Charles Simmons
Samantha Marie Simmons
Parmeet Singh
Mikayla Mae Smith
Peyton Alexandra Smith
Drake Fitzgerald Soldis
Juliet Drew SooHoo
Leah Morgan Sopak
Andrew Zachary Spektor
Audrey Daphna Spindler
Mason Charles Spisak
Giovanni Enrico Sponzilli

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Chinmai S Srinivas
Lauren Elizabeth Staelin
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Océane Streubel
Faith Ashtyn Strumlauf
Maya Helena Supran
Nicholas Swanson
Valerie T Swe
Erin Gail Tarasow
Lorelei Tavernier
Kayla Terry
Justin N Thai
Joshua Thiphakhinkeo
Annika Jordan Thomas
William Alexander Thomas
Ella Morgan Tierney
Jennifer Patricia Tierney
Ashton Shinsa Tom
Sofia Rose Torres
Shelby Ann Tse
Kaydee Tu
Bianca Mikaela Tung
Sean W Turney
Raymond Joseph Vallee
Autumn Nicole Van Buren
Marius Van Dongen
John Tjaard van Loben Sels
Nicole Cavanaugh Van Stralen
Oliver Lee Von Karl
Ethan Alexander Voong
Loren Rose Walker
Lucy Zhongrong Wang
Tallon Tai Le Ward
Tiberius Richardson Ward
Enzo Takata Watanabe
Anli Soo Wun Fong Waters
Christopher James Watson
Nicholas Allan Watson
Madeline Lily Weber
Cayden James Weiszmann
Rebecca Rose Welsh
Beatrice Frances Whitaker
Stephen Paul Wilder
Eva Ludmila Winter
Nicholas Gambuzzi Wong
Jameson Connor Yee
Anthony Han Yen
Emily Zalevsky
Douglas Winchester Zeller
Vasilii Nicholas Zigenis
Tanner Aaron Zwahlen

What will local schools look like when they reopen?



Credit/no-credit versus letter grades sparks tense discussion

A significant number of parents were infuriated by a recent AUHSD board decision to evaluate students performance with credit/no credit rather than with letter grades for the spring semester. The board presented the move as the only option to avoid penalizing some students who may be less likely to succeed in a distant learning environment. A petition from Lamorinda parents claimed that the decision would significantly hurt the hard work of their children who are competing for access to colleges and scholarships, and asked that the board revert back to letter grades. When asked about possible effect the grading decision could have on college applications, College Advisor Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, noted, that “colleges as a group have clearly stated that they will not penalize students for what their school district decides. Colleges will place greater weight on other aspects of a student’s application, like their extracurricular activities, essays and how they have managed themselves during the COVID crisis.”

By Sophie Braccini

When Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson at the May 6 board meeting presented what the high schools will look like this fall, he did not lay down one, two or even three possibilities; he introduced a continuum of options that the school districts have to get ready for now, while facing uncertainties. For Lamorinda school districts, getting ready for all types of situations needs to happen over the summer, while the budget for next year looks quite grim, with a potential 10% reduction in income.

Among the possibilities, Nickerson listed separating the student body, with half working mornings and the other afternoons; a two-week on, two-week off option; or four days on, 10 days off new rhythm. The superintendent noted that the district may have to resort to complete distance learning again if there is a surge of COVID-19 infections, and that the district is working on making its online teaching capacity more robust. A task force is working on creative new ways to engage the students, reflecting also on the future of performing arts and sports. Other questions include the capability of testing everyone for the coronavirus, flow of traffic, hygiene and cleaning, and the need for more custodial staff.

AUHSD parent Dr. Michelle Stevens Jones asked many questions about how the district was planning to innovate and improve distance learning. She asked about plans for incoming ninth-graders, what

platforms the district would choose for online learning, how it would keep teachers accountable, how everyone would be trained, and how parents and students would be kept informed of changes.

Nickerson listed among the constraints, the need to coordinate with the local K-8 districts in order to minimize families’ stress levels. All local education leaders meet once a week to coordinate their efforts.

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns reported the same level of uncertainty as Nickerson. “It feels like building a plane while it is flying,” he said. He confidently reported that his district had 100% student participation in distant learning – which is not the case for the AUHSD – but that engagement varies from child to child. He explained that special education and English as Second Language teachers have a goal of providing continuity and are engaging students individually. Burns acknowledged that parents’ perspectives vary widely, from those who are not comfortable having their kids come back, to those who just want the return of normalcy as soon as possible.

In Lafayette, Superintendent Richard Whitmore explained that the district was waiting for guidance from the state, both the Department of Education and the statewide public health agency, and that guidance would be processed through county agencies for education and public health. “It is complicated oversight and we expect it to take a bit longer to understand what our options

for operating in the fall will be. I’m hoping mid-June,” he said.

In the very short term, the AUHSD is finalizing plans for the summer program. With an increased number of at-risk students, it was very important for the district to offer six-week classes for credit recovery again this summer. Associate

Superintendent Amy McNamara explained that the district’s own teachers will teach the classes and that some effort will be made to offer in-person small group teaching for English learners and for geometry advancement for incoming ninth-graders. The district will

also look into wellness programs in small groups of students to address isolation and loneliness.

Nickerson said that the district would send a survey to all its stakeholders to get their feedback. For now, the first day of school is still set for Aug. 11.



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