



Park View Elementary School
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Jim Schuller, Principal

July 28, 2020

Park View 6th grade families,

Ripon Unified has a long standing tradition of providing all district 6th graders with the opportunity to attend Outdoor Education School at Camp Jones Gulch for one week. We refer to this as *Science Camp*. This past year in March, our 6th graders were unable to attend due to increasing cases of COVID-19. We have received the following notification from San Joaquin County Office of Education:

"At this time, the recommendations from the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer and those contained in SJCOE's 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A Guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19 cannot be safely achieved in a residential camp setting. Due to these concerns, the San Joaquin County Office of Education will not be operating our Outdoor Education program at Jones Gulch for the 2020-2021 school year.

This decision was made with great difficulty based on the importance of this essential, immersive experience. With this mind, the STEM department is working hard to design a menu of "outdoor education" experiences which may be offered virtually to compliment a student's STEM experiences."

While we do realize this is not the news you want to hear, our teachers will be diligent in developing virtual "Science Camp" activities for our students over the course of the 2020-21 school year. We appreciate your understanding with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19.

Jim Schuller

Principal