

## Flattening the Curve

Though the gates at 300 Gaven will remain closed this week, our team is actively preparing for distance learning to begin. As I have noted before, we will solidify our plans tomorrow, March 16. Further instructions will be sent the following day, and the virtual school bells will officially ring!

Since my post on Friday, there has been increasing attention on the importance of social distancing with the goal of “[flattening the curve](#).” The CDC has made clear that the protective effect of school closure can be diminished by social mixing outside of school ([Considerations for School Closure, K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs](#)). Additionally, the closure of SFUSD has prompted the SF Department of Public Health to recommend that children stay home as much as possible, avoid playdates, and avoid hanging out with other kids ([SF Chronicle, SF public school closure: What does it mean for your family?](#)). Similarly, the majority of our independent school peers are advising more restricted outside-of-school interactions. With this in mind, we urge our own SFS community to make every effort to ensure our closure is as effective as possible by eliminating social mixing unless it is essential. We respect that this is ultimately a family decision.

The CDC suggests that longer school closures have a greater impact on slowing disease transmission. The trend among our peer schools is to schedule a medium-term (approximately 4 weeks) closure with frequent reassessment. Our senior leadership team is meeting this week to discuss our school closure timetable. I aim to provide an update to you on this by March 17th as well.

As things continue to change rapidly, please look for further updates in ParentSquare.

Together,

Steve