

Campus Closure Update

It is with incredibly heavy hearts that we inform you that The San Francisco School campus will remain closed through the end of the school year. We, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Administration, and the SFS Emergency Preparedness Team, have determined that, at this time, the risks for reopening campus outweigh the potential benefits.

As we pondered creative scenarios for even a limited reopening, we identified ethical and logistical constraints that make it unfeasible. These include but are not limited to:

- Concern with issues of equity associated with a family or staff's ability to attend school
- Anxiety among many community members about returning to campus
- The need to develop extensive protocols/practices for all who enter campus
- The challenge of safe physical distancing and preventative measures for our students, especially with the PS/K and younger elementary grades
- Unsustainable strain on our staff to continue preparing distance learning while simultaneously pivoting to classroom learning
- Our commitment to doing our part for the greater good in fighting the pandemic by observing physical distancing

Regardless, The San Francisco School is in session until our final day of school on June 3. Our students will be learning and socializing to the greatest extent possible. Rather than preparing for a return to campus that is subject to cancellation from a COVID-19 setback, we will continue to deliver and enhance the best virtual program possible.

Over the course of the shelter-in-place directive, we hope that you have continued to value your family's place in our SFS community. While so many other schools have been slow to start online instruction, our quick conversion to the Distance Learning Plan in mid-March has allowed us to implement and refine an academically solid program with social-emotional support that will be sustainable for the remainder of the year.

As we move forward through this uncertainty, be assured that we will continue to do our absolute best to keep your children safe, intellectually engaged, and supported in a way that is true to our SFS tradition.

Please click [here](#) for a brief video message from Steve, and read below for a message from Terri Hamer (Chief Financial and Operating Officer), and Anton Honikman (Chair, Finance Committee).

Together,

Steve Morris
Head of School

Anne Hipskind Roberts
Chair, Board of Trustees

Dear Community,

For many of us, the value of being part of The San Francisco School community as we shelter in place has been immeasurable. It would not have been possible to deliver *School on the Go* without our dedicated educators or the administration that supports them. And throughout, our friends, colleagues, and peers have sustained us.

Accepting that our campus will remain closed for the semester is difficult, but it puts us in a strong position to (i) focus on *SOTG* for the rest of the year and (ii) plan for the 2020 - 2021 academic year with foresight and experience.

To maximize our program, we need to maintain regular fiscal operations, even (or especially) in this climate of economic challenges and unpredictability. The FACTS 2020 - 21 tuition payment confirmation was delivered this weekend. We know that COVID-19 has created financial hardships for many of us. We hope this gives families more time before the first payment deadline (May 5) to assess their need for Indexed Tuition, and we are committed to supporting all of our families to the best of our ability.

The School has been proactively approaching families whose financial circumstances have been impacted by the pandemic. If your situation has changed and you would like to learn if your family qualifies for Indexed Tuition, please contact Terri Hamer (tdhamer@sfschool.org).

Sincerely,

Terri Hamer
Chief Financial and Operational Officer

Anton Honikman
Chair, Finance Committee