

Phase 3: Preparing to Reopen (Please Read Carefully)

As I noted in yesterday's TNH, while the City of San Francisco contemplates the reopening of businesses and careful modifications of physical distancing, I am cautiously optimistic about resuming school on campus next year. To that end, we will be hosting parent/guardian sessions on May 29 in which our curriculum and program team will share more details about our fall scenario planning. I am writing this message today to give you a better sense of how we are approaching our planning.

Over the past few weeks, the Emergency Preparedness Team has evolved into the Reopening Task Force. It is composed of SFS staff and physician parents, in consultation with local officials and other Bay Area independent schools. Our priorities are to protect the health of the SFS community and to provide our students with SFS's distinctive education, social emotional learning (SEL) and care, and community. It is our intention to open the gates when conditions safely permit us to do so with necessary adjustments of routines, classes, and schedules.

As we have noted, with respect to the summer, we hope to host camps for children of essential workers. If current restrictions are altered allowing us to offer camps to all SFS families, we will notify the community as soon as possible. Our teachers will have a well-deserved break as well as the opportunity for professional development to ready us all for the fall. In lockstep with our curriculum and program administrators, the facilities team will prepare the classrooms and grounds for physical distancing and increased hygiene upon reopening.

In our preliminary assessments of reopening this fall, we realized that SFS has many logistical advantages that will facilitate the adoption of reopening parameters: a small, cohesive staff; small class sizes already accustomed to being in smaller instructional groupings; adequate classroom and outdoor space; and a collaborative culture. We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with parents/guardians which will allow our community to engage in a social contract around daily monitoring, hygienic measures, and continuity of protocols at home.

It is currently impossible to make any definitive plans because the immediate future is unpredictable. We are determined to remain adaptive to the changing circumstances. Currently, our priorities include the following:

- The imperative to follow CDC & DPH guidelines with the health of our community of utmost importance
- Increased hygiene measures (e.g., touchless hand washing and sanitizer stations)
- Utilization of indoor and outdoor classroom spaces and common areas throughout campus
- Preparation for combined online and on campus instruction if needed
- Creative scheduling and limited movement on campus
- Sufficient inventory of thermometers, masks, hand sanitizers, etc.
- Hiring a school nurse, possible onsite COVID19 testing, and tracing
- Increased SEL and counseling support
- Food services safety
- Supporting families and staff who face specific health and safety needs regarding this virus

- Maintaining community traditions, events and parent/guardian education

The ability of SFS to flourish even in a time of difficulty depends heavily on our financial strength. Currently, our enrollment is full. The hard work of the Business and Admissions Offices, Advancement Office and Committee, and the Board Finance Committee has made our financial footing as solid as could be hoped through sound budgeting, careful planning, fundraising, and our endowment. In accordance with our mission and values, we continue to hold our diverse community close and support our staff and families however possible.

We are committed to communicating with all of our constituents -- staff, trustees, and families. We will get the input of staff and our rising 8th grade students through small focus groups this week and next, and we will host information sessions on Friday, May 29, for parents and guardians. During these sessions, Nancy Nagramada, Maggie Weis, Carly Reiter, and Stewart Dorsey will share more details on the models and scenarios we are considering. Please attend one of the sessions if you can; your input is valuable in helping us plan an academic year that best meets the needs of our students as learners and interests of SFS families.

While our focus right now is on closing this school year joyfully and preparing for the fall, if you have questions about other topics, please direct them to the appropriate administrator.

Together,

Steve

Friday, May 29

Phase 3 Information Sessions (See ParentSquare for GoogleMeet links or to RSVP)

- Rising PS/K, 8:00 - 8:30 am or 3:00 - 3:30 pm
- Rising 1st - 3rd Grade, 10:00 - 10:30 am or 4:00 - 4:30 pm
- Rising 4th - 8th Grade, 11:00 - 11:30 am or 5:00 - 5:30 pm