



March 11, 2020

Dear Trinity Families,

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness and care as we've navigated the uncertainties, complexities, and increasing concerns about COVID-19. I know it hasn't been easy for members of our community and their families at home and abroad.

I am announcing, for reasons stated below, the closing of school on Friday, March 13 and the start of distance learning on Tuesday, March 17. We plan on reopening school on Monday, March 30, although I wouldn't be surprised if we were closed until April 14, which is the end of Spring Break. As it stands now, Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held as scheduled on April 2 and 3.

It is important to note, we currently do not have a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Trinity School.

Our rationale in deciding what's best for children and our community include:

- Overall, the desire to be deliberative, proactive, and predictable and to plan optimally for the health of all involved.
- The growing number of cases in adjacent Santa Clara County and in San Mateo County.
- San Mateo Public Health Office, Dr. Scott Morrow, stating yesterday there is "evidence of widespread community transmission" in San Mateo County.
- The mathematical models created which demonstrate a significant increase in COVID-19 cases.
- The lack of consistent or widespread testing that makes it unlikely, if not impossible, for a child to qualify for a test in the near term and be diagnosed with the virus.
- The closure of many independent schools in our proximity as well as the Archdiocese of San Francisco closing their 90 schools including all in San Mateo County.

As noted, we will be in session tomorrow in order for teachers to continue to plan for distance learning, for students to gather related materials and for parents/guardians to be able to plan as best they can. We understand the significant burden this can cause families given the extended closure but feel the closure is in the best interest of our community and the community at large.

Tomorrow, via email, we will be sending home the guide for distance learning as well as other related materials. All students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 will be bringing home their iPads. The faculty on both campuses have been working very hard over the past week on the Distance Learning program, under the direction of Sue Krishna, Colette McWilliams, Pal Thinnappan and Katy Roybal.

Our distance learning plan does require that students have access to the internet. If you or a family member needs assistance in this area, please contact Pal Thinnappan (pthinnappan@trinity-mp.org) so we can help.

Please know we will be in constant communication with you as the academic instruction at Trinity pivots from the classroom to your home. I must say how proud and impressed I am with the teachers as they've been preparing with the highest level of professionalism and commitment - and consideration for every child.

I will continue to be in touch as this process continues. While there are many variables during this uncertain time, I'm inspired by the good will and good work by all in our community.

As always, my door is always open for questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you, everyone.

Matt

Head of School



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