



50 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, T: 650.327.5052

December 14, 2020

Dear Beechwood Families,

As we move toward the end of this calendar year, I want to provide a status check on our current programming and share a few updates as we move into 2021.

Current Platform

We have been running instruction on a 100% Virtual Learning platform. A vast majority of students have successfully participated in online instruction throughout the past three and a half months. As a faculty, we are grateful for the adjustments made by our families, especially you parents, to make this work for the children. That being said, we miss our students and are optimistic that we will have in-person learning in the coming year.

For many of our families, it has been exceptionally difficult to manage work and supervise home learning for their children. We are aware of these challenges and hope to see our learning environment shift.

Reopening Status

We successfully submitted our reopening plan to San Mateo County and were approved for a hybrid plan effective January 26, 2021([Beechwood School Reopening Plan](#)). Unfortunately, prior to Governor Newsom's stay-at-home order, the county shifted back into 'purple tier status', which then reintroduced the requirement to also submit a waiver to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). It should be noted that the waiver **only** applies to students in grade KP – 6th. We will only be able to reopen 7th and 8th once the county has returned to 'red tier status'. Our hope is that our waiver will be approved, which will give us the space to reopen when we see both the positivity and hospitalization rates decrease.

Staff have worked to restructure rooms and materials to facilitate in-person learning in a hybrid model with 50% student capacity. I am working on a new document for our families that outlines our reopening plan and procedures, in detail. All families will be asked to participate in virtual orientations prior to any reopening.

My expectation is that all families will receive at least a three week-notification prior to reopening. For now, we await feedback from CDPH and a decrease in COVID-19 rates in our county.

Academic Pods

While awaiting official status change, I am hopeful to offer 'high needs' academic pods for very small groups of students. These would be comparable to those being used in other local schools. I worked with a small group of students during this month and feel this is something we should start in 2021 as we await reopening. More information on status and structure will be made available.

Parent Advisory

On January 14th, 6:30pm, I would like [to invite parents who are interested in assuming a leadership role](#) to participate in a planning session. This is **not a general meeting**, but is intended for those parents who would like to shape PA moving forward. Those interested should contact me directly and I will add you to the meeting.

Gradelink

We would like to start shifting parents to using Gradelink as a portal for student updates and information. We will begin this process with enrollment information being emailed during the first week of January. For now, we encourage families to download the application onto your mobile device ([Gradelink Download](#)).

Admissions

Given limits on our ability to have visitors on campus, we are considering restricting admissions to KinderPrep and Kindergarten until such time as we can have visitors on campus to interact with our existing enrolled students. We will reactivate this part of our admissions process later in 2021, hopefully in the spring. KinderPrep and Kindergarten admissions packets will be available when school resumes on January 4th.

We appreciate you and your continued support of our community. I wish you a Happy Holiday season and continued good health to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Priscilla H. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Priscilla H. Taylor
Principal, Beechwood School