



October 23, 2020: Transitions

Dear CDS Community,

Transitions are always a little tricky. They can be filled with excitement and a little anxiety about what is to come, and a fondness or sadness for what is lost. This week we had a number of transitions. Some of our first, second, third, and fourth graders transitioned to new online cohorts while other first and third graders transitioned to new in-person spaces. Some second and fourth graders visited new spaces transformed into classrooms and learned new routines so they will be prepared for their first full days in person next week.

These transitions were supported by a flurry of behind the scenes activities as our facilities team transformed our spaces with signage, additional space and sneeze guards. Behind the online scenes, there has been regrouping of families in ParentSquare, changes in Seesaw, and other updates from our tech and communications teams.

Did everything happen perfectly? Of course not, and I am deeply appreciative of the nimbleness of our team of educators and our families. Through this all, it does seem that our students above all are demonstrating amazing resilience and flexibility. As I think about what skills I have had to draw upon over the last eight months, those top the list.

Throughout this time, I have tried to take moments to raise my head up from the work and look at the future – not next week or even next month, but a few years from now. What will life look like and how will it be different? What can we be doing now that will prepare our students for this new normal? Certainly, we have all learned new tech skills and new ways to connect with each other. We have also learned how to wear a mask and have developed embedded spatial awareness about the distance of six feet.

Life will certainly continue to throw us curve balls and I do believe that the practice of flexibility and resilience will serve us all well in the years to come. These are life skills that set our students up for success well into the future. As a community, we will keep looking for ways we can learn and grow from this experience.

Part of that growing is responding to your feedback. Lindsay Hershenhorn, our Director of Curriculum and Program Innovation, shared a survey with you via ParentSquare last night. It is modeled after a survey created by NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) and will provide us some insight into how things are going and how we can continue to prioritize the well-being of our students as we navigate this tricky time. Please share your thoughts with us.

I wish you a pause and an opportunity to find joy this weekend.

Warmly,
Shelly