



September 25, 2020: A Friday Update

Dear CDS Community,

It has been an emotional week as we reckon with the fact that Breonna Taylor's murderers will not be held accountable for her death and also mourn the loss of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a pioneer for justice and truth.

In the midst of this, we continue to deal with the global pandemic. Thankfully the air has been clear and some of us have enjoyed time on the yard.

The screen in the lobby of SJH offered this daily motivation on Thursday, and it is a good summary of our current experiences: *"When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway."*

This week, we accomplished one step critical to our ability to reopen our campus so some students can return to in-person learning. On Wednesday, we hosted five members of the SF Department of Public Health team for a site inspection. This is a culmination of many health- and safety-focused checks and plans. Our goal is to have many of our Kindergarten students start in-person learning on Monday. The teachers have been working to make their new classrooms safe and welcoming. The next phase of our return to in-person learning will occur in mid-October, and there will be more information shared as we finalize plans.

Throughout all this, we will continue to support lower school and Kindergarten learners unable to return to campus through our CDS@Home programming. You can find out more with the links below:

[Reopening Plan](#) | [K-8 Health & Safety Procedures](#)

Many of you have reached out to me about the growing health and safety concerns tied to the unhoused folks who have been staying in the area around our 333 campus. You may have noticed we have engaged a security company to help facilitate safe passage

for families. Additionally, I start my days making sure there are not any needles or other unsafe materials visible and talk with these individuals about safer behaviors such as safe passage, cleaning up trash, and keeping dogs in tents during our transition times.

We have continued to prioritize our work with a focus on safety and humane engagement. That being said, folks have asked why there has been no change. Actually, I continue to make posts on 311 asking for clean-up and health and safety support. I have also reached out multiple times to our supervisor as well as members of the Healthy Streets Operations Center. From these conversations, I understand that the city is planning to shift focus from their work in the Tenderloin to the Mission. Part of what makes our sidewalk attractive is that it is level and wide. Tents on the sidewalk that are impeding right of way are not allowed; however, tents on our block are not **technically** blocking the right of way. This is a systemic city-wide issue and does not have easy solutions, and I recognize that this is tricky for us all as we have empathy for our unhoused neighbors, and we might feel unsafe or unsure as we approach school.

We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our families and I encourage you to use the 311 app to request services. I use this app multiple times a day, being mindful not to take photos of individuals. If you experience specific unsafe behaviors, please reach out to me as soon as you can and I will follow up.

As we currently need to follow health protocols that make drop off via car very difficult, you are welcome to use either driveway to access our entrance. There will still be some cars passing through even though the number will be reduced, so please be mindful of vehicles.

Now I am thrilled to share this [intro statement](#) about **Latino/a/x Heritage Month** from Xochi and Jasmin!

Warmly,
Shelly