



## March 11, 2020: Community Update

Dear CDS Community,

We had a very productive professional development day on Monday! Our teachers led a variety of workshops, sharing their knowledge about many subjects. In an interactive session in the afternoon, we flexed our artistic muscles by learning how to make shadow puppets. We also took the opportunity for focused training sessions with our teachers in preparation for online/home learning. And finally, we came together to discuss our learning beliefs and how they are being reflected in our pre- through 8th-grade curriculum.

Interestingly, we heard positive feedback from some of you about the convenience of scheduling this day on the Monday after daylight savings, giving everyone some extra time for those internal clocks to sync up. We will be mindful of this as we plan next year's calendar.

We are continuing to monitor updates from [the CDC](#) and [SF Public Health](#), as well as staying in touch with local NAIS schools and peer schools around the world. As of now, we do not know of any immediate exposure to COVID-19 in the CDS community, nor do we know if or when we will close school. This situation continues to evolve by the hour and we are working hard to anticipate your questions, to respond to new information, and to keep you informed. Currently, we remain at [risk level 2](#) and we are staying the course and keeping school open.

### School Safety and Canceled Events

- Lunches, as well as mid-day and after-school snacks, will be served only by adults wearing gloves.

Due to the aggressive measures mandated last Friday by San Francisco Public Health and city officials, we are taking some additional steps to support the wellness and safety of the CDS community:

- For this Friday's assembly: we ask that ONLY the families of this week's presenters (Kindergarten Sequoias) attend. For the rest of the community, remember the assembly is streamed live every week: <https://www.cds-sf.org/cds-live-stream> (the password is "4cdsfam").
- There will be no coffee at this smaller version of the assembly.

"Non-essential" events for the next two weeks are canceled or postponed, including:

- Bid & Bash Fundraiser and Auction, Friday, March 13 (more info about this coming soon)
- LS Movie Night on 3/20 and MS Movie Night on 3/27

#### In Middle School:

- Week of April 6: Both 5th and 6th Grade trips to Point Bonita – **canceled**
- This week's home and away futsal games – **canceled**. Futsal and track & field practices are still taking place.
- Any announcements regarding other athletic team events will be sent via ParentSquare from Athletic Director Nick Saunders.

#### **Field Trips**

Two preschool field trips that were planned for today and required transportation on SF Muni were canceled. Other field trips that don't rely on public transportation and are to outdoor locations will still take place as planned. We are happy to provide hand sanitizers to our parent volunteer drivers if necessary.

#### **Planning for a Potential School Closure and Online/Home Learning**

Generally, we are trying to maintain the normal daily rhythms of school to provide reassurance to the students. Concurrently, we continue to prepare for the possibility of a school closure. If we learn of a direct exposure (student or employee) to COVID-19 at CDS, we anticipate closing for a deep clean of the school (as per CDC guidelines) and will assess reopening based upon exposure and risk.

As a reminder, all families should complete the [technology questionnaire](#) ASAP so we can proactively address any connectivity needs as we plan for potential online learning.

#### ***If school closure is required:***

We will inform the community immediately through a text and phone alert with

our emergency notification system (One Call Now) and also a note via ParentSquare.

The first two days we will treat like a weather-related closure to allow faculty and staff the opportunity to prepare for online/home learning. We would begin online/home learning on the third day. Faculty are already working on implementing tools that will allow for engagement and connection as well as content delivery.

Once we begin online/home learning, the experience will differ depending on the grades of the students. We will offer connections and assignments augmented by some opportunities for video or face to face interactions with classmates and teachers.

- For **ECP and Lower School families**, ParentSquare will be the primary communication tool from teachers to parents. Students will use Seesaw to access assignments and Zoom to connect with teachers.
- **Middle School students** will primarily rely upon Google Classroom, a familiar platform for students and faculty. This will be augmented with Zoom “meetings” and videos from teachers.

### **Thank You and Hygiene**

As you can see from the above, our leadership teams and faculty are working hard to plan, learn new skills, and do everything possible to ensure that the learning and social connections continue for our students. Launching an online model is certain to bring surprises and challenges. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Please continue to remind everyone to wash their hands as often as possible and please keep all sick students home. As always, please do reach out to me with questions or concerns. And we will continue to update [this web page](#) on the CDS site as things evolve.

Warmly,  
Shelly

### **Other helpful resources:**

[CDC Updates on Coronavirus](#)

[San Francisco Department of Public Health Updates on Coronavirus](#)

[CDC Travel Advisory](#)