



March 27, 2020: Friday Note from Shelly

Dear CDS Community,

It was so uplifting to see the many happy faces this morning during our first-ever virtual Friday Assembly. Seeing the families made me teary! There were 188 of us at one point. We will do more of these, and they will be even better!



As I've talked with many friends and colleagues over the last several days, they all have said the same thing: that the first few weeks of the move from physical school to online school are the most difficult. I think this is true of any major change or transition and in particular this one. I know it has not been easy for any of us to adjust to our new routines.

Some of you have shared with me the different ways you are balancing things: from your own remote work and supporting your children's school work to childcare and dealing with being homebound. Our teachers and staff are balancing things as well. Many have children of their own. When they aren't teaching, some are doing virtual yoga, some are cooking, many are finally getting

to those books on their reading list, and some are taking the air while walking the dog around the neighborhood. I have played A LOT of Uno and the Wille family rules put four square rules to shame. I would like to hear about other strategies *you* are finding to be helpful.

With eight days of home learning now behind us, we have been reflecting on the work that has taken place so far, and now we want to hear from you. As our Mission states, we are “always asking how we can do this better” and this is an important time for us to be very responsive to feedback. We’ve sent you a survey that will help us continue to improve, refine, and develop our version of Learning is Active in an online environment.

This data will provide us with valuable feedback. The Academic Leadership team is meeting Monday, so please complete this by Sunday evening and be sure to complete a survey for each child (that is, one per grade). We so appreciate your feedback!

One Important Piece of Business (signature required)

More weekend homework for the adults! To support the health and safety of all community members, the school is requesting your permission to record the occasional online classroom session and all 1-to-1 online meetings between an individual student and CDS teacher/staff member. Please fill out our consent form, which must be completed so that students can continue their Zoom meetings next week.

Some Useful Resources and Ways to Help

The Tech and Communication departments have been working on a wiki site that will serve as an Online/Home Learning portal for families. We will continue to enhance this public site, which will include our OHL guidelines, fun activities for kids, tech tips, community support and resources, and other information related to home learning.

As I mentioned at the start of the virtual assembly, taking action helps us to feel safer and calmer. Families may support SF’s amazing health care workers AND local restaurants that may be struggling. To contribute to #SFHospitalMeals, please email CDS parent Amie Lewis. Let her know your pledge amount and your Venmo (preferred) or Paypal handle. Once pledges reach \$1,000, you will receive a payment request. Groups or individuals can sponsor a meal from one restaurant to one hospital (50 workers) for \$1,000. She hopes to gather pledges

and sign up to sponsor a meal when pledges reach \$1,000. For more information, see this [Medium article](#). We will provide information about these opportunities as we hear of them.

Warmly,
Shelly