



March 3, 2020: Information and Resources for COVID-19

Dear CDS Families,

It seems that the only thing happening right now is the Coronavirus. However, lots of wonderful learning continues to take place in the CDS classrooms and beyond. Today, the TK Alligators visited a local polling station and learned all about the voting process. In Lower School, the fourth-grade classes continue to work on their upcoming book drive that will benefit an elementary school in Uganda. And tomorrow night, our seventh graders will take center stage when they host the second annual *Soup for Change*.

Meanwhile, we continue to plan and prepare for the likely spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The CDC has not yet issued any specific guidelines for schools, but we are closely monitoring the situation and will notify families with any changes.

From a prevention standpoint, our facilities and maintenance staff continues to be vigilant about cleaning and disinfecting common areas, and they are routinely wiping down classroom surfaces with disinfecting wipes.

The CDC recommends the following steps to protect yourself and others:

- Get your flu shot to protect against flu or symptoms similar to novel coronavirus.
- Wash your hands with liquid soap and water, and rub for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a flexed elbow.
- Keep sick family members at home until symptoms resolve.

Reiterating this last point, we ask that students, family members, employees, and guests who are ill not come to campus; please wait until you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning.

Currently, our leadership team is using this [Flu Crisis Response Plan](#) as our guide and we will follow this plan in the coming weeks. We have created this document with the help and advice of medical experts in our school community. We are also checking the [CDC's Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

A note about masks: neither the CDC nor WHO currently recommends masks as a strategy for preventing illness. Masks should only be worn if a person is sick.

As usual, we monitor absenteeism to see what impact illness may be having on our community. We would like to share [another resource](#) when deciding to keep your children at home. This guidance, though not specific to COVID-19, is from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The administration and faculty are also preparing for the possibility of a temporary school closure.

- We will close school if a directive is given by the SF Department of Public Health.
- We may also make an internal decision to close school if conditions warrant.

Should a closure take place, we will work to support online or home learning in appropriate ways. We are gathering resources from other schools that already are using distance learning. We know that a transition to an online format of our teaching and learning will be a growth opportunity for all of us, and we invite you to share your insights and feedback with us.

Lastly, please see [this page](#) on the CDS website for up-to-date information. You will find several helpful resources as well as an [FAQ document](#) created by our partners at Joffe Emergency Services.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions you may have.

Warmly,
Shelly