

## Community Message Regarding COVID-19, March 13, 2020

At noon today, the Santa Clara County Office of Education announced the closure of all public and charter schools in Santa Clara County effective Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 3rd. This closure takes us into our scheduled Spring Break so, effectively, our schools will be closed through April 10th. This closure also applies to all school activities and events. The duration and potential extension of this closure will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis moving forward. This closure applies only to Lakeside School, and our District Office will remain open.

This is an outcome for which we've been preparing, and we are prepared to ensure that our students continue to learn during a school facility closure. We will use the week of March 16-20 to further support our staff and to establish the appropriate structures and processes so that all of our students can continue to learn. We will begin the delivery of *curriculum packets* for all classes and students, beginning Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. As our teachers continue to develop the curriculum packets of instruction through next week, we will be delivering the second set of packets on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Marshall will be communicating directly with the instructional staff during the school closure and establishing specific timeframes for each teacher's packets to be available for parent pickup from the Community Center, first on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and then again on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

This specific information will be made available to our community by the end of day on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the Community Center will be the site where parents will pick up curriculum packets. With the exception of the Main Office only, the rest of Lakeside facilities are closed to all public members, except for purposes of distributing materials in the Community Center itself. No instruction will be delivered during the week of our Spring Break (April 6-10).

We recognize that we are all navigating uncharted waters with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The decision to close school facilities is not one taken lightly nor one that is made by a school district in isolation. As you can imagine, we have received a great deal of input from our staff and community and this input represented a wide variety of viewpoints and individual circumstances. We have listened to this input and also considered the legal requirements and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control, the State of California, and the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health and Office of Education. Based upon all of this information, we have consistently communicated our challenges, needs, and concerns to the appropriate agencies and advocated for what we believed to be in the best interest of our community, our students and our staff members. Lakeside Joint School District is very supportive of the decision to close schools for this period of time and while the delivery of instruction is a significant shift in practice for our students and staff, we look forward to the opportunity to continue to provide appropriate academic program to **all** of our students, and to learn and grow as professionals through this new experience.

It is also important to note that while school is closed, students and families need to remain cognizant of Public Health guidelines regarding preventing transmission of the COVID-19 virus. If the closure of our schools simply results in groups of children gathering outside of school and interacting with the broader community, we lose some of the potential community health benefits of school closure.

We appreciate your continued support during these difficulty times and ask for your flexibility, understanding, and patience as we adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances in which we are all living.