

# STEVENSON

March 8, 2020

Dear Stevenson Community:

As Monday nears, I write to reiterate our current policies and practices concerning student health and attendance.

To provide context for what follows: as I write, there are no cases of COVID-19 in Monterey County, and no suggestion of “community spread” in our local area. While it is possible, even likely, that this will change in the months ahead, local public health authorities and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines argue persuasively for us to be open for school on Monday, on both campuses, as planned. As I have written previously, we have taken all recommended steps to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19, and there is no reason to believe that Stevenson is at any greater risk than is the wider community.

As I explained in my [last letter](#), no one who has traveled to the United States from a CDC Warning Level 3 country over the spring break will be permitted on campus until they have completed a two week period of “home isolation” off campus. By insisting on this practice, we are following CDC recommendations.

In order to further reduce the possibility of COVID-19 being introduced to our community, all PK-12 students who have been ill with flu-like symptoms over the break must provide a doctor’s note (delivered to Stacey Cimoli, in the case of lower and middle division students, or to Terry O’Hara, in the case of upper division students) before returning to school. This provision obviously requires self-reporting, and we trust that all of us are equally committed to ensuring the safety of our school community, the communities that surround us, and contributing to “flattening the curve” of this epidemic.

As of tomorrow, March 9, and until further notice, PK-12 students who miss school for three days or more due to illness will not be permitted to return to school without a doctor’s note (delivered to Stacey Cimoli, in the case of lower and middle division students, or to Terry O’Hara, in the case of upper division students). While this decision represents a departure from our usual policy, and brings about a certain level of inconvenience for students and families, I am confident you understand why it is important for us to insist on this protective measure in the current climate. Resident students who fall ill following their return to school will be cleared by the school nurse in cooperation with the local doctors to whom they are referred.

We therefore expect all PK-12 students who are in good health--except for those who have been directed to engage in home isolation owing to CDC warnings--to return to school

tomorrow. Students should attend school until there is a valid reason for us to change this expectation. To be clear:

- There are no accommodations for healthy students who wish to remain at home.
- Absences of three days or more without a doctor's note are unexcused absences.
- More than seven days of unexcused absences in a semester places a student's receipt of course credit at risk.

I should also add that we have worked extensively with Marc Matyas, our director of dining, and FLIK, our food service vendor, to enact a range of [modifications](#) to our dining service on both campuses in order to minimize various risks associated with both food service and meal time behavior. Those changes will be listed on our [Community Updates page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact either Dr. Dan Griffiths, the head of the upper division, or Molly Bozzo, the head of the lower and middle divisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hicks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kevin M. Hicks '85 P'29  
President