

The Bulldog Bark, March 12, 2020

Letter to the Chartwell Community

This morning schools across California received Governor Newsom's press release which states, in part:

The state's public health experts have determined that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March. Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people, while smaller events can proceed only if the organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines.

As of now, he has not declared the closure of schools across the state. However, there may be a local illness-related decision made by the Monterey County Health Department at any time.

At Chartwell, we are all consciously working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our school and within our wider community. While we plan to adhere to our response plan as communicated to families on our website:

<https://www.chartwell.org/community/chartwell-parent-resources/coronavirus-information> this is a rapidly evolving situation, and we must be prepared for the difficult decision to shift to an online learning platform. This decision may be in the very near future due to one or more criteria listed in our plan, or due to new, unforeseen developments.

In order to prepare, Chartwell teachers will be using our **Friday afternoon planning time tomorrow, March 13, beginning after the 2:00 dismissal** to begin to set up our online learning strategies and distance learning instructional program. On **Monday, March 16**, we will begin introducing the platform to our students. We are in the fortunate position at Chartwell that all of our students can be sent home with a laptop, and all can access the Google Suite. If there are any families that do not have an internet connection at home, we would like you to let us know as soon as possible.

We are now in Level 2 response mode which means as of tomorrow, **March 13 through the end of Spring Break on April 13** we will suspend all sports events and will not host or travel to any games or contests. We will also cancel all field trips and limit visitors to our campus.

Finally, I know many of you (especially those in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara or San Jose Counties) are already experiencing school and work closures. We have not had a reported case of the virus yet in Monterey County, but we want to be prepared for that event. Also, please remind your family members that we have already CANCELLED our Grandparent and Special Friends Day, which was scheduled for April 3.

Take care of your families, stay healthy, and thank you for your support.

Best,

Kate

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