



PLAN FOR REOPENING

— 2020-2021 —



DEAR LAURENCE FAMILIES,

We hope that the summer months are providing you and your family with some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine. During this time, our Administrative Team, school directors, and Board of Trustees have continued planning for our students to return to campus this fall for in-person learning with diligence, thoughtfulness, and care for the well-being and safety of our students, families, faculty and staff.

The current rising trend of COVID-19 cases is concerning, and we are monitoring guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Based on this week's Department briefing, we are ***preparing to move forward with plans to resume school this fall with all students on campus full time in accordance with the latest mandates and guidance.*** Should the situation change, we will be ready with plans for remote learning. In order to complete the necessary campus upgrades to bring everyone back for in-person learning, we will be ***pushing back the start date of school by a week,*** with a potential for staggered start dates for different grade levels following Labor Day.

*Rooted in tradition.
Inspired by innovation.*

The social and emotional health of our students is paramount, and we believe that resuming school on campus this fall is in their best interest. At all times, our mission of educating the “Total Child” and the health and safety of our community remain at the forefront of our thinking.

We have been working closely with our [medical task force](#) and making plans in consultation with epidemiologists and infectious disease experts and in accordance with [Los Angeles County](#) and City requirements, [American Academy of Pediatrics guidance](#) and [CDC guidelines](#). *As new county requirements for schools are still forthcoming and circumstances beyond our control may arise, we will update and revise these plans accordingly. We will keep you timely apprised of changes.*





While we cannot completely eliminate all risks of the virus, we firmly believe that our plans will mitigate and reduce the risk of spread, while balancing the important need for our students to resume in-person learning with peers. Each family will have to make a personal decision about how to balance these interests. To that end:

- We are providing you with our current plan below.
- **You are invited to attend a parent webinar on Wednesday, July 22nd at 5:30 p.m.** to hear directly from our medical task force and get your questions answered, as well as hear more about our plans for the upcoming school year. [Please click here to submit your questions and for the webinar log-in information.](#)
- We will send out a parent survey to get your feedback and assess your comfort level with our plans once you have had a chance to hear from our medical task force.
- Once we have integrated your feedback into our plans, received final requirements from Los Angeles County, and have finalized additional details regarding how some of the new procedures will work, we will follow up with future communications and/or an additional webinar to help prepare you and your children to start school this fall.

We also recognize that our community includes people who fall into the high-risk category, or who may be uncomfortable or unable to participate in an in-person learning environment this fall. As such, we will be offering a **fully remote learning program** simultaneously with our in-person instruction.

Certain on-campus experiences are impossible to completely replicate during a remote experience, such as Art, Music, Drama, and P.E. (even though we do try!). We encourage you to let your division director - [Liz Silverman](#) (K-2) or [Eric Hogenson](#) (3-6) - know as soon as possible if your family falls within this category, so that we can plan for your family accordingly.

Additionally, we continue to move forward with innovations and advancements in our academic and enrichment programs for the upcoming school year. Our educational directors and faculty are planning for an engaging program that maintains our standards of excellence in learning and social and emotional development. We are confident that our creativity and innovative, growth mindsets will provide your children with an outstanding elementary education this coming year.



OUR PLAN



HEALTH & SAFETY

- We are currently in the process of hiring a school nurse to administer our health and safety protocols moving forward.
- A brief daily health screening questionnaire will need to be submitted each day for all students and employees prior to campus arrival.
- At this time, we plan to take temperatures of students and employees prior to entry with touchless thermometers.
- Masks/face coverings will be worn by everyone on campus. (Face coverings are currently recommended by the CDC, California Department of Education, and California Department of Public Health, even for children as young as five. We will continue to monitor the latest guidelines.)
- Students and employees will sanitize their hands as they enter campus, and as they enter and exit classrooms.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be installed throughout campus (and within each classroom), and we have secured a significant supply of sanitizer.
- New portable handwashing stations have been installed throughout campus to increase the frequency with which everyone can wash their hands during the course of the day.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Bathroom sinks and toilets throughout campus and in the administration building have been enhanced with touchless wash and flush mechanisms.
- Campus cleaning equipment will include a Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayer, which can clean and disinfect a large classroom within minutes and provide the high-level cleaning necessary for the COVID-19 virus.
- School maintenance staff will increase cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school day of high-touch and common areas, including bathrooms and lunch, recess and other common areas.
- Classroom doors will be kept open to support proper ventilation.
- Physical distancing will be implemented throughout classrooms, outdoor areas, and employee work spaces.
- Kid-friendly signage and directional arrows on pathways will be placed throughout campus to help implement physical distancing. *(More information regarding physical distancing in classrooms is provided below.)*
- Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be required to stay home and any student or employee who is ill - with a cold, the flu, COVID-19 or otherwise - will have a strict protocol to follow before being allowed to return to campus.





STUDENT ENVIRONMENT, LEARNING & ACTIVITIES

- Students will be grouped in stable learning communities - **Learning Houses**. Students will stay with their housemates for all activities throughout the day. There will be three to four Learning Houses per grade level, designed around physical distancing requirements, classroom square footage, and the developmental needs of our students.
- Our Administrative Team and Teaching & Learning Task Force are adapting our schedules and academic programs to ensure that our students' learning experience continues to be best in class with this fall's classroom structure.
- Classrooms are being redesigned to comply with physical distancing requirements, and all students will have individual, forward-facing desks.
- We will be utilizing enrichment classrooms and outdoor spaces for learning and to allow for additional physical distancing during the school day.
- Teachers and students will have scheduled mask breaks throughout the day with proper physical distancing.

STUDENT ENVIRONMENT, LEARNING & ACTIVITIES

- Students will have individual school supplies, and any shared supplies for activities will be limited to the Learning House and/or disinfected between uses as needed (e.g., musical instruments, playground equipment).
- Enrichment activities are being reimagined to provide students with Laurence's signature well-rounded education that includes art, music, drama, dance, technology, and more, while allowing students to participate safely.
- Coach Redmond and our athletics team are taking a close look at our physical education curriculum in order to continue to provide a program that meets the needs for safety, physical health, social and emotional well-being, and FUN!
- We are in communication with the other schools in our Interscholastic Sports League regarding what the program might look like this year and will provide more information as it is available.
- We are planning for a remote learning program for students who are unable to attend on-campus learning full time, and for students who are temporarily at home due to illness.
- **After School - There will be no after school play/no after school care on campus at this time.** We are considering options for a remote after school enrichment program.





SAMPLE CLASSROOM PHOTOS





NEW CLASSROOM SPACE

- As we announced last summer, the school has acquired a 2,000 square-foot building to expand learning space on our campus. The project is currently underway on the northeast corner of campus, transforming the Field of Dreams into the Village of Dreams. The new building will be ready for students to use this fall. For the time being, it will be used for additional classroom space to allow for physical distancing, and in the future this new Village of Dreams will include dedicated 6th grade classrooms, new flexible learning spaces, and a redesigned Edible Garden.
- We are also finalizing additional plans for more classroom space and will share the details about this project with you in the near future.

NEW CLASSROOM SPACE



LUNCH & SNACKS

- Our optional hot lunch provider, Freshlunches, will be implementing changes, including providing individually packed boxed lunches to be delivered to classrooms, eliminating the lunch line.
- Lunch will be held in the classroom or outdoors with physical distancing.
- Snack Bar will be eliminated for the time being. Students will bring their own snacks.
- Sharing of food between students will not be permitted.



CAMPUS ACCESS & SCHOOL EVENTS/ GATHERINGS

- Drop-off and pick-up times will be staggered to ease crowding at the start and end of the school day. School day start times will be adjusted accordingly.
- Access to campus will be limited to students, employees and minimal necessary vendors (e.g., Freshlunches, cleaning crews, and security staff).
- Parents will only access campus for family emergencies, to pick up ill or injured children, and by appointment, if necessary. Meetings with administrators and teachers will be facilitated virtually.
- Events, gatherings, and traditions will be reimagined into virtual experiences, including Red, White, Blue & Green Assemblies, Parent Association meetings, and parent education events.

We recognize that parent participation on campus and in the daily life of the school is an important and meaningful aspect of life at Laurence. We will closely monitor the circumstances, as well as state and local health and safety guidelines, and loosen these restrictions as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we are working - in conjunction with our Parent Association - on creative and imaginative ways to maintain our strong sense of community and long standing traditions during this time.





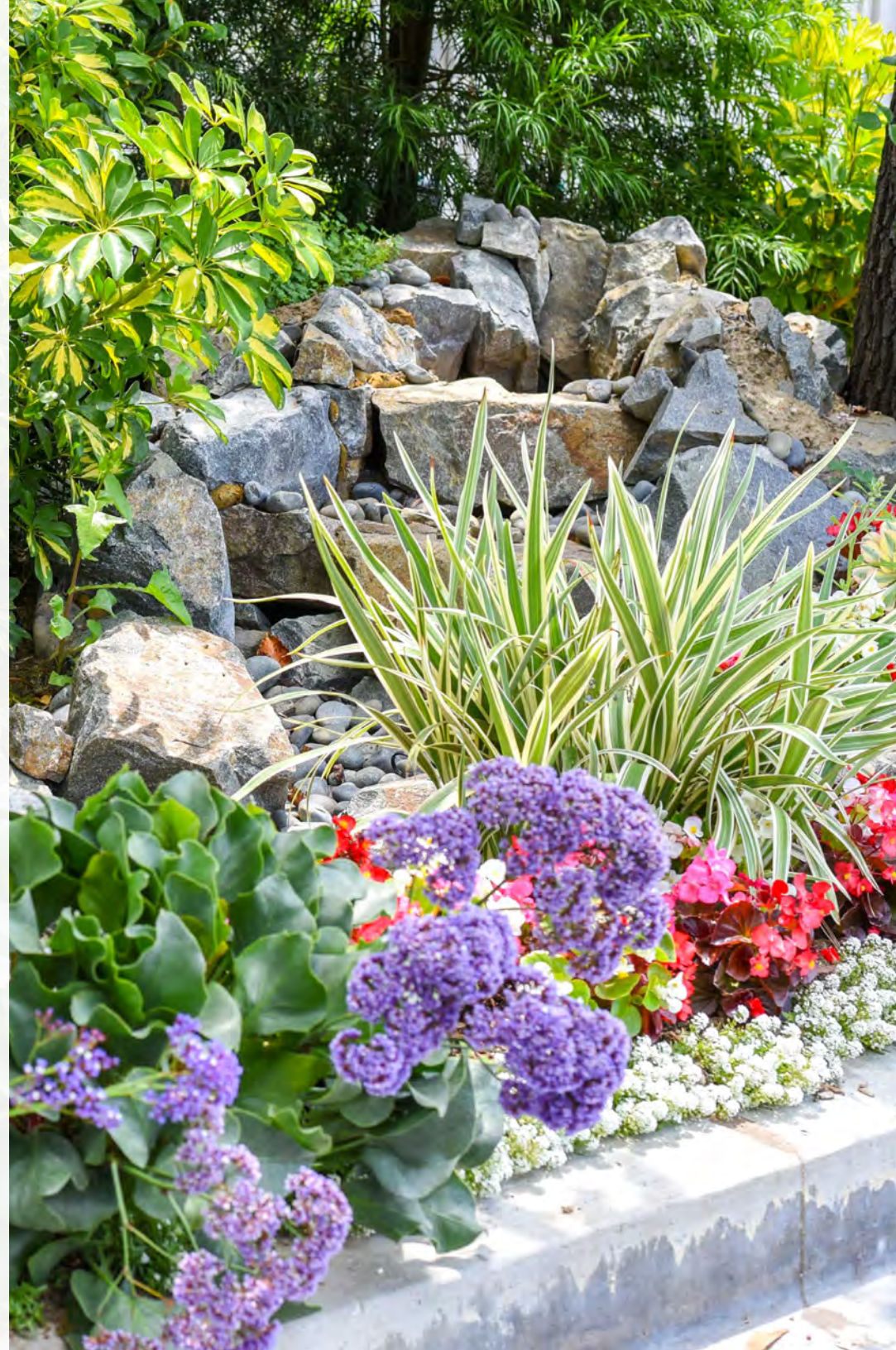
BUS SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION

- We recognize that some families cannot get their children to and from Laurence without the bus. We are working closely with our bus company, Tumbleweed Transportation, on plans for bus service for the fall, which include increased sanitizing and disinfecting of vehicles, physical distancing of passengers, and additional requirements for entering the bus.
- As there will likely be fewer available seats on the buses due to physical distancing, we will be seeking parent input about whether you intend to use bus services this year. Stay tuned for more information.

TRAINING, SUPPORT & EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

As we return to school and students embark on this new and different-looking year, one of our key goals is to implement health and safety protocols with our students' emotional well-being in mind, understanding that for small children these changes can feel scary. Our administrators and teachers will work to ensure that each student feels supported as they transition back onto campus.

- Classroom teachers will work with students to help them understand and adjust to the physical distancing, masks, and other safety requirements that will be in place.
- Our school counselor, Dr. Rachel Kavanaugh, will be available for all of our students, fostering deep and meaningful conversations and working with students to manage stress and challenges arising from this "new normal."
- Our Parent Education Series will include topics that support our parents' well-being and parenting during this time.





Our current plan for reopening campus for in-person learning this fall is guided by evidence-based science, as well as compliance with state, county and local requirements and guidelines. ***We will continue to fine-tune and revise our plan as new information and requirements become available and as we receive your feedback.*** We remain nimble and are committed to being prepared for all possibilities as the year progresses.

We are grateful for your partnership with us as we move toward the reopening of campus and look forward to the return of our students this fall. The success of our plan will require our entire community to come together, care for one another, and protect the health and safety of everyone in our Laurence family.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of our medical task force, Board of Trustees, and our administrators, faculty and staff who are working diligently and tirelessly to bring our students back to campus this fall. I am grateful for your continued support and commitment to our students.

I look forward to welcoming our students back for the 2020-21 school year. I've missed you all dearly! While our year may not look exactly like we are used to, I take heart in knowing that this won't be a forever configuration, and we will all be back together again soon.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie Wolke".

Laurie Wolke
Head of School



LAURENCE SCHOOL