

2020-2021 Returning To Learning



**STERNE
SCHOOL**

Let's keep Sterne School safe and open for learning!

HEALTH SCREENING



Employees, students, and parents are asked to screen for symptoms at home everyday before arriving to campus.

TEMPERATURE SCREENING



All employees and students will enter the building through a walk-through scanner. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be asked to return home.

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS



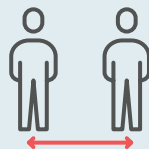
All students, teachers, and staff are required to wear cloth face coverings when in classrooms, hallways, or restrooms. Students with a doctor's notice are excused.

"STABLE COHORTS"



As much as possible, students will remain in small learning groups for contact tracing and limited cross exposure.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING



Students will receive training and reminders to maintain six feet of distance between each other and teachers.

MODIFICATION OF PROGRAMS



Performances, assemblies, gatherings and meetings will take place with Zoom or a blended model of in-person and virtual programming.

LIMITED CAMPUS ACCESS



Only essential visitors will be permitted in the building.

SANITIZING



Protocols for hand-washing, touchless sanitizing stations, and deep cleaning that meets the best practice standards set forth by the CDC and SF Dept. of Public Health are in place.

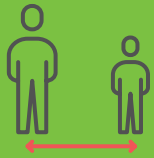


Physical Distancing


To maintain the physical distancing guidelines laid out by the Center for Disease Control and the San Francisco Department of Public Health, it is recommended that students and teachers maintain a 6-foot distance in classrooms, hallways, and common areas.

Sterne's plans for implementing physical distancing:


6-foot distance in classrooms between teacher and students.




Staggered bell for class changes, breaks, and lunch to keep hallways and common areas free from congestion.



Lower School and Upper School class size reduction.



Large group gatherings such as assemblies, performances, and meetings moved to virtual environments.



Plexiglass barriers, signage, and floor markings in key areas.



Lower School: 5 Days a Week on Campus

Staggered start and dismissal times allow students and teachers to utilize more spaces throughout the building.

LOWER SCHOOL

Grades 4-8

Arrival 8:00 am
Dismissal 2:00 pm

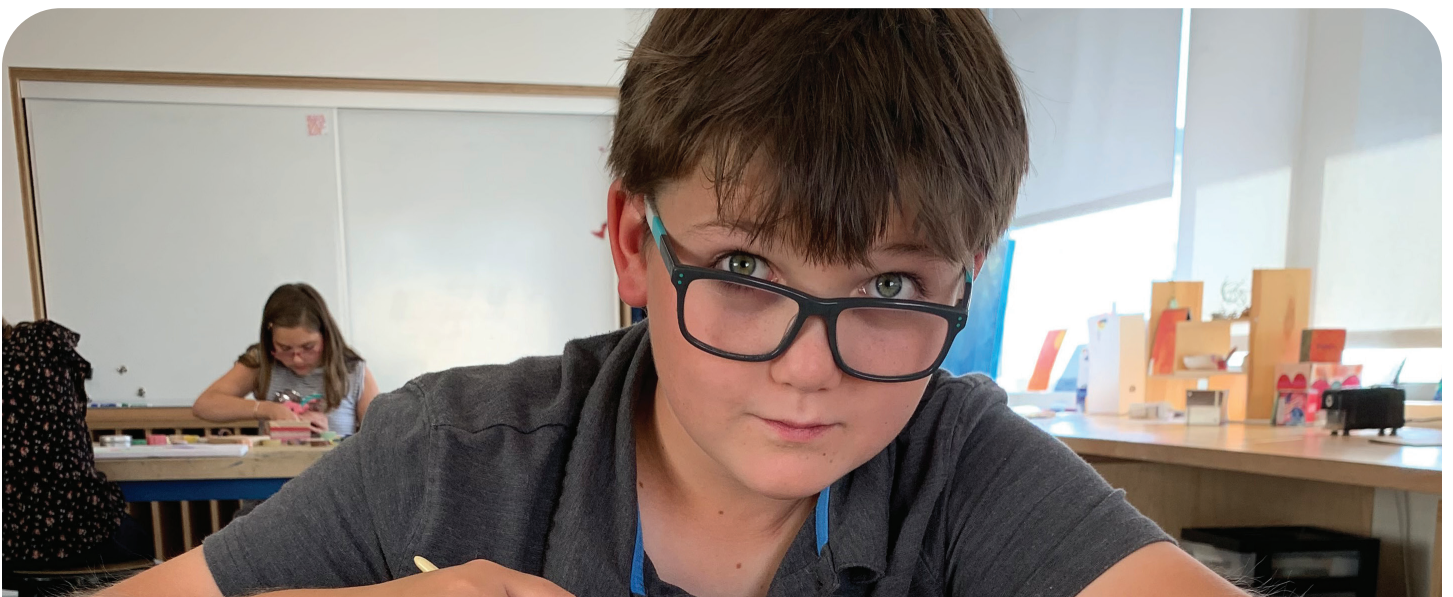
On Campus, 5 Days
Per Week

Lower School students begin classes 1.5 hours before Upper School students arrive. By utilizing the whole school to separate students for core classes, we are able to offer 5-day-a-week on campus instruction for all Lower School students. We recognize the academic and socio-emotional value of in-person instruction, particularly for our youngest students. All students will benefit from outside time on the rooftop, in breezeways, and in garden areas as weather permits.

Your child's individual schedule will be available to you on July 31.

Questions?

Contact Matt Poynter, Head of Lower School
mpoynter@sterneschool.org.



Upper School: Blended Learning

UPPER SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

Alternating days on
campus & in distance
learning

Arrival 10:30 am
Dismissal 4:00 pm

A 90-Minute Block,
Blended Learning
Model

In the Spring, the Upper School teachers and administration conducted thoughtful research into ways to maximize instructional time and provide greater opportunities for deep inquiry, project-based learning, and specialized instructional for reading, writing, math, and executive function.

Instead of our traditional model of six 50-minute class periods a day, we are seizing an opportunity for a more condensed and in-depth learning model of 90-Minute Block classes. A 90-Minute Block schedule will reduce the number of transitional points in the day, allow for needed adjustments to the pace of learning, and provide more time for labs, projects, and performances.

In addition to a 90-Minute Block design, the Upper School will begin the school year in a “blended learning environment.” This is being implemented in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and the San Francisco Department of Public Health, to maintain physical distancing in classrooms.

In the Blended Learning environment, instruction is synchronous. Every other day, groups of students will be on campus receiving live instruction while their classmates receive the same live instruction at home, in a virtual learning environment. Students in class will be partnered with students at home for projects and activities. This is enabled using a tool called a Swivl. We are very excited about the creative possibilities that a Block, blended learning model presents.

Your child’s individual schedule and an academic year calendar (indicating your child’s group rotation) will be available on July 31.

Questions?

Contact Michelle Bizeau, Head of Upper School
mbizeau@sterneschool.org.



Key Digital Platforms & Tools

ZOOM

All virtual learning classes, meetings, and presentations will be conducted using Zoom technology.



SWIVL

Swivl allows teachers to move freely about the classroom while they deliver live instructions to students at home. It provides high-quality audio (via microphone the teacher wears) as well as tracking for video. Swivl is a Zoom plug-in.



FINALSITE LMS

All Lower School communication, including homework, class calendar, and teacher communication will be conducted via Finalsité's Learning Management System. Parents will receive training on this new system in the Fall.



GOOGLE CLASSROOM LMS

Upper School students will continue using Google Classroom as their tool for accessing and turning in homework assignments.



KAHOOT!

Kahoot! is a game-based learning platform with live and interactive quizzes and games.



ACTIVELY LEARN

Actively Learn is an online curriculum platform incorporating texts, videos, assessments, and assistive technology.



Actively Learn

IXL

Math and Language Arts practice and progress-monitoring tool.



Flexibility & Communication

The world has changed dramatically in the past few months. As scientists learn more about COVID-19, transmission rates change and new treatments are developed, Sterne School will remain attentive and responsive to these changes.

Should members of the community receive positive test results, we may close the whole school or sections of the school for a period of time. At that time, students will move to a distance learning environment.

If local and state government and/or health officials issue a shelter-in-place, students will shift into distance learning for the duration of the SIL. We are prepared for these contingencies, and we urge parents to check their email for communication and develop their own family contingency plans.



Parent Agreement

Let's partner to keep Sterne School safe! Even with all the steps the school is taking to make the campus safe, there still may be outbreaks because of community spread, so parents and the school will need to work in partnership to prevent and respond.

DON'T

Don't send your child to school if they are sick.

Do!

Do check your child's temperature and screen for symptoms every morning.

DON'T

Don't send your child to school if their temperature is above 100.4.

Do!

Do inform the school if someone in your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Call the Front Office at 415-922-6081.

DON'T

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, don't send them to school until they have received clearance from your doctor and/or health officials.

Do!

Do make arrangements ahead of time for emergency school pick-up if your child should become ill. They will be in isolation until you can get them.

DON'T

Don't visit campus unless it's absolutely necessary. Call ahead to drop off any essential items, and they will be delivered to your child.

Do!

Do ensure that your child continues frequent hand-washing, use of a mask, and social distancing after school and on the weekends.

Opportunities and Innovations

The COVID pandemic has presented the world with a myriad of challenges, and though opening any school for operation in the Fall comes with some risk, we are so very fortunate to be able to have the funding and support to open our doors in a safe and controlled way. We are equally fortunate to have the ability to very swiftly pivot and reinvent our academic schedule to accommodate physical distancing guidelines. Changes this year:

SMALL CLASSES

Smaller class sizes; 5-11 students on average.

SELF-CONTAINED MODEL

Lower School students have a "Homeroom" teacher. This eases communication, executive function, and creates a supportive community when children need it most.

MORE MINUTES

Increased daily instructional minutes for both Upper and Lower School students. We have some catching up to do!

FOCUS ON SEL

A focus on social-emotional learning. Students need social time with peers, face time with their teachers, and a respite from a stressful world.

TECH TRAINING

Increased technology training for all; we learned a lot from the Spring distance learning model. If the school has to close for a period of time, we're ready to move into a more organized and effective virtual classroom.

ELECTIVES

We have always believed that students need to focus on their strengths. Though core classes are a bit longer this year, the arts and athletics are still an essential part of the academic day.

COMMUNITY

We may not be able to physically gather together, but we've put a great deal of effort into providing families with ways to connect with teachers and each other and learn together. Please join us on Zoom for our new Parent Education Series and Educational Insights Webinars and consider becoming part of our Parent Association.

HVAC

We had a major upgrade to our filtering system, adding ionization and purification. This is essential for COVID safety, and will enable the school to continue operation through the fire season.

STERNE SCHOOL