



October 20, 2020

Dear Urban Families,

As the Thanksgiving and winter holidays come into focus on our calendars, all of Urban's stakeholders – teachers, staff, students, families – crave clarity about our anticipated schedule going forward. I know this goes beyond logistics (though these are very real) to emotion. And I know clarity has been slow in coming as the pandemic and San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) guidelines have been ever shifting. Your patience and good faith have been extraordinary.

Below is Urban's plan through the end of the Winter Term in early March, along with some explanation of the complex and competing rationale that informs it. Knowing that no single approach works equally well for everyone within a school community, I hope that this resolves your expectations and helps guide your planning and thinking. Of course, I very much hope that the choices we've made make sense to you given Urban's unique campus, academic schedule and standards, county-specific restrictions, and the approach to the pandemic we've taken thus far.

1) Urban has already applied for a waiver to reopen, and we optimistically anticipate SFDPH approval sometime during Urban's Week 10 of Fall Term (November 2-6). Charlotte Worsley, the Deans, Jenn Epstein and the Athletic Department are currently planning a variety of non-academic opportunities for after school and weekends for as soon as we are granted clearance. Based on consistent feedback from students and faculty, we will not disrupt the virtual academic program during the very demanding, final two weeks of the term prior to Thanksgiving break.

2) We begin the Winter Term (Week 1) after Thanksgiving break in *Virtual Urban* to allow one professional day for teachers, and most important, for all faculty/staff and students to be tested for COVID before returning to campus. (The school will organize and provide this required testing. Details to TBA). Faculty will teach some of their classes from school this week to work through logistical kinks in preparation for *Hybrid Urban*.

3) Our first *Hybrid Urban* week will be Week 2 of Winter Term (December 7-11) with Week 3 being virtual, in accordance with the alternating "4-10" week on/week off schedule you are familiar with.

4) This brings us to Winter Break. After break, we will start with a virtual week (again to allow for required COVID testing), then begin the "4-10" alternating week model that will take us through the end of Winter Term on March 5.

Later this week, you will receive a number of essential documents for your review and/or signature in preparation for our return to in-person activities in the pre-Thanksgiving weeks and *Hybrid Urban* in the weeks thereafter. Please be on the lookout for:

- Our fully developed *Safety Plan* that was part of our application to SFDPH for in-person activities.
- An *Acknowledgement of Risk* form written and mandated by SFDPH that requires your signature if a student plans to engage in in-person activities.
- A *Community/Student Health Pledge* required by Urban that lays out our community expectations and requires a signature from parents/guardians and students.
- A survey indicating whether a student will be attending Urban in-person or chooses to learn remotely during *Hybrid Urban*.

We know this is a lot of information to absorb, just as we know that there will be a spectrum of response within and among us to any proposed schedule and approach. Schools all around us will move forward in different ways; we have sought to chart a course that makes sense for Urban.

For those of you with more questions, please join us for one of the following information sessions:

1) Wednesday, October 28 - 4 pm

2) Thursday, October 29 - 7 pm

(address removed)

With appreciation,

Dan

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### **An important note on COVID testing for students, faculty and staff:**

Along with our stringent safety protocols on campus, required COVID testing in the week before in-person school is an essential part of our efforts to protect all of us in the community. Given how quickly accurate testing technology is evolving, we have not made a final determination on our methodology, but convenience will be paramount, as will be our commitment to assume the costs that are not covered by health insurance. In your planning, it is critical that your students are in the Bay Area to be tested during any week immediately before a return to campus. Along with following [SFDPH guidelines](#) around travel, families should not extend travel beyond Urban-scheduled vacation days if students want to come to campus to attend *Hybrid Urban* in-person the following week.