



November 12, 2020

Urban Families:

Once again, I am writing with an update to best laid plans swept aside by COVID and the city's efforts to control its spread.

As you are probably aware, Tuesday afternoon Mayor London Breed announced a tightening of public safety guidelines due to a significant increase of COVID cases in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Among these new restrictions is a mandated hold on reopening high schools, including ones like Urban that have been "approved," but have not yet begun in-person classes on campus. We confirmed this restriction yesterday in individual conversations with SFPD and in a group meeting held for local independent and parochial high schools.

The duration of this latest directive is not specified, but given circumstances nationally, it seems likely to extend into and beyond the Thanksgiving vacation week. In a reluctant nod to current realities and a need to make plans in the face of uncertainty, we will not pilot four days of hybrid instruction in early December as we had hoped. We have, however, been granted permission to continue outdoor activities for students, which are so important for their social and emotional health. This Saturday, for instance, we have groups biking, kayaking and dog walking. Physical Activities classes will continue after school on the Salkind Center roof during the coming week, with still other plans in the works for December.

By now, platitudes about resilience, patience and perspective have worn thin for many of us, though, in point of fact, they are unavoidably apt these days. And while all of us are being challenged in ways we never dreamed of a year ago, I am inspired and appreciative of the effort and optimism of so many in this community.

With warm regards and appreciation,
Dan

Dan Miller
Head of School