



Dear Families,

Knowing that this has been a circumscribed winter holiday for many, I hope that the past couple of weeks have, at least, offered a restorative change of pace for you and yours. Perhaps like me you are entering 2021 with mixed emotions. Our resilience and optimism continue to be sorely tested, but a sense of renewed possibility is coming slowly into focus; shouting *Happy New Year!* at the stroke of midnight last week felt aspirational – tempered perhaps, but deeply hopeful.

For those who haven't already drawn the obvious conclusion from the dispiriting local news, Urban is not permitted to begin our hybrid schedule on January 11th as we had hoped. Statewide restrictions require San Francisco County to move from our current status in the "purple tier" into the less restrictive "red tier" for at least two weeks before San Francisco's Department of Public Health can consider reopening any school that was not already in session on campus. We are, therefore, still officially "paused," dependent on both state and local conditions and approval from the San Francisco Department of Public Health. We are in regular dialogue with SFPDH as it responds to the changing conditions and will share any material updates as we learn of them.

Beginning in the week of January 11th, we still expect to resume some optional outdoor activities after school and on the weekends, including training for athletic teams. Keep an eye out for emails from Charlotte Worsley and Joe Skiffer with more details, including a reminder about the county-mandated, 10-day quarantine for students who have traveled outside the Bay Area.

This has been, and continues to be, a trying time for many, and in ways as varied as our circumstances. In spite of these challenges, the resilience of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the support and good faith exhibited by parents and guardians have been nothing short of inspiring.

With best wishes and yes, optimism, for the new year.

Dan

**Dan Miller**

Head of School