



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Let me skip the throat clearing and risk some unadulterated optimism. If current metrics hold, the state will place San Francisco County in the all-important "red tier" next Tuesday. We have also heard – and here I'll be cautious – that the County may waive the additional 5-day wait period for Urban because we were originally approved to open in November. If indeed that happens, our official green light could be next Wednesday, March 3, just a few days before the end of the winter term.

If this comes to pass, I hope you'll agree that it would be unwise to make a radical change to our schedule with only a few days left in a jam-packed Week 12, with students working through a slew of cumulative projects and assessments. However, Charlotte (who, like me, just learned of this potentially accelerated timeline) is busy arranging some training and orientation activities on campus for at least a small cadre of student leaders who will be critical going forward as we welcome more students in the coming weeks. Yes, there could be a vanguard of Blues in the hallways of Page and the Salkind Center (albeit masked and 6 feet apart) as soon as next week.

As you know, the following Monday, March 8, marks the start of our interterm break, and we anticipate that some number of families, staff and faculty will be out of town visiting loved ones (or colleges) or simply taking advantage of a few days away to camp or hike or just decompress after an unusually challenging stretch of time. That said, we are still planning ways to invite more students on campus, even while classes are on hiatus. Charlotte and the Deans are hard at work creating

a variety of activities – orientation, tours, safety training and the like. Details will be forthcoming.

Which brings us to the formal beginning of spring term on Tuesday, March 16, the day after the annual professional development day – this year dedicated to preparation for and launch of *Hybrid Urban* with its alternating weeks of virtual and on-campus instruction. Given possible travel during the previous week and, more importantly, to allow for a mandatory, on-site COVID testing clinic on Thursday, March 18, only after-school team sports and other activities will be in-person during Week 1. Anyone who plans to be on campus for the first in-person week (March 22-26) should plan to attend this clinic (details to follow). Please note: while the County has lifted the mandatory 10-day self-quarantine for people leaving the Bay Area, they are still strongly recommending it, as do the relevant [state guidelines](#).

I know this email is short on details, with a number of "TBDs" throughout. Apologies. With this accelerated timeline and somewhat startling shift in tone from SFDPH, we wanted to sketch the big picture for your planning as soon as possible, with details to be filled in over the next week or so. Moreover, before finalizing plans we need to get an updated count of those students who may, for any variety of reasons, choose to learn remotely this spring. Please look for a short but essential *Hybrid Urban* attendance survey from our Director of Marketing & Communications Kris Bailey. Also watch for critical emails from Charlotte about upcoming on-campus activities and logistics.

Though the English Department may correct the context, the last few months have sometimes felt like Shakespeare's (then Steinbeck's) infamous *winter of our discontent*. But as someone who grew up in Albany, New York, I can also attest to the restorative power of the first signs of spring. I hope this email feels that way – a harbinger of better things to come under a brighter, warmer sun.

Best,
Dan

Dan Miller

Head of School

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