



Monday Memo 10/5:

Dear PHS Families,

I hope you were all able to get outside this beautiful weekend; what a wonderful breath of fresh air (I had to!) for our Bay Area community, and my thoughts continue to be with those to the north dealing with the fires.

**Some important news:** PHS has scheduled our SFDPH site visit for next Thursday, October 15th. We hope to learn within a few days following whether we have been approved to reopen. The details of our on-campus learning plans are fully dependent upon whether or not we are approved to reopen.

**Please complete our [Pre-Rotation 3 survey](#) for families as soon as possible and before **Thursday, October 8th**.** All families must complete this survey for each student; we are asking for your commitment to return to campus or to continue in distance learning for both Rotation 3 and Rotation 4. Moving from on-campus learning to distance learning at the change point between Rotation 3 and 4 will be accommodated if possible, but moving from distance learning to on-campus learning will not likely be able to be accommodated. Middle school families: we know we are asking for commitment from our middle school families more than a full rotation before the scheduled start of on campus learning for your grades, but we do need to know this information in order to finalize our on campus and distance learning formats. If you complete this survey for your middle school student/s and realize that you would like to make a change to your indicated commitment, please reach out to James Wygant by **Monday, October 26th**; there may be some flexibility for changes to your stated commitment.

As a reminder, we currently plan to have TK-2nd students join on campus the week of October 26th, 3rd-5th students join on campus the week of November 9th, and 6th-8th students join on campus the week of November 30th. This is subject to change.

I have much additional information to share, so please make sure to read through all the details about our reopening and distance learning plans before making your commitment. First, I am pleased to share that nearly all of our lead and assistant teachers will be returning to teach on campus. There are some exceptions and you will have received an email if your cohort is affected by lead teacher changes. Additionally, due to physical distancing needs, PHS has assigned the 7th grade class to two indoor/outdoor tents on the roof yard for in-person learning. Each 7th grade section (cohort) will be assigned to its own tent, and will have access to indoor bathrooms and hand-washing stations. Additional details, including plans for inclement weather, will be provided in the next few weeks. Finally, PHS is requiring that **every student returning to**



**on campus learning must be tested for COVID-19** fewer than 14 days before returning to PHS for on-campus instruction (testing will be offered at PHS or may be completed elsewhere). You will receive an email next week (TK-2) and in following weeks (3rd-8th) with more details about COVID testing for students. PHS may decide to require intermittent testing during the rest of the school year for students, we will update families once plans for additional testing are finalized (likely not before rotation 5). Staff continue to be tested every 2 weeks.

### **1. Classroom schedules**

On campus lower school: The length of the school day for lower school students participating in on-campus learning is similar to a typical on-campus schedule. For TK-2, students breaks and lunches will be held outside on campus. For 3rd - 5th grades, lunches will likely be in the Presidio. In the event of inclement weather, lunches will occur in the classroom. On campus middle school: The length of the school day will be very similar to our distance learning schedule. Student lunches will likely be in the Presidio and in the event of inclement weather, lunch will occur in the classroom. We will have staggered drop off and pick-up for all grades and Wednesday will continue to be an early-dismissal day.

Classroom teachers will be working with specialists and division directors and according to their class needs/learning format choices to determine schedules. You will receive more information about your cohort-specific schedules at least one week before the start of on campus learning.

### **2. Room locations**

- a. Transitional Kindergarten - former 1st Grade room (2nd Floor Maple)
- b. Kindergarten - former K and TK rooms (1st Floor Maple)
- c. 1st Grade - Library and Maker Space (Lower Level Maple)
- d. 2nd Grade - 2nd Grade room (2nd Floor Maple)
- e. 3rd Grade - 3rd Grade Room and former Learning Service room (1st floor Washington)
- f. 4th Grade - former 6th/7th and 8th Grade Science rooms (3rd floor Washington)
- g. 5th Grade - Stage & Theater (Lobby floor Washington)
- h. 6th Grade - Cohort 1: Humanities 6 and Humanities 7; Cohort 2: 6th/7th Math and MS Spanish rooms (2nd Floor Washington)
- i. 7th Grade - Outdoor Classrooms (2nd Floor Washington - Roof Yard)
- j. 8th Grade - former 4th Grade and 5th Grade rooms (1st floor Washington)
- k. Care Rooms - 3rd Floor Washington (formerly Communications office), 2nd Floor Maple (formerly LS Director office)



- I. Faculty/Staff workspaces: Art Room, 8th Humanities, and Staff lounge. Additional staff workspaces will be provided on the 3rd floor of Maple Street (once complete).
3. **On campus walking flow information:** Information about the on campus walking flow will be shared closer to the start of on campus learning (after our site visit has been completed). We have finalized drafts of our campus walking flow for all campus locations which will allow for adequate physical distancing, minimize cross-cohort interactions, provide direct access to restrooms, handwashing stations, and details cohort-specific entries and exits. PHS will be creating cohort-specific training videos and orientation materials which we plan to share at least a week before the first day of on campus learning for each cohort. We ask that you go through all the materials at least once before the start of school.
4. **Timeline for communications-** Looking ahead to our on campus reopening, we plan to share information about classroom schedules, on campus walking flow, cohort-specific protocols and training videos, and outdoor schedules and protocols at least one week prior to the start date for on-campus learning for each cohort. Additionally, we will offer Town Halls for faculty/staff and parents/guardians after our completed site visit (likely the week of October 19th. We will continue to survey our community for comfort levels and learning format feedback regularly, likely once per rotation.
5. **FAQs** - Please see the attached Reopening FAQs document for details about the PHS reopening. If you have additional questions, please check to see if they are answered in the [PHS Reopening Application](#) on the [Reopening PHS page](#) of our website.  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jKuam0U3D6wdGhLrlp1zqwiX\\_2Hrq7Y36kLgT\\_0x6yQ/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jKuam0U3D6wdGhLrlp1zqwiX_2Hrq7Y36kLgT_0x6yQ/edit?usp=sharing)

Finally, the **Presidio Hill School distance learning schedule** will be available for students who choose to opt out of returning to school on campus. The specifics of the distance learning plan will vary across grade-levels and will be determined based on a number of factors, including teacher input, classroom routines, and student numbers. We are committed to providing learning experiences for students who cannot attend in person, however there are aspects of in-person learning that cannot be fully replicated remotely. Human sustainability is one of our goals and when classrooms have learners in two different locations requires additional resources and bandwidth. We are working on a model that will allow classroom connections to continue but will likely require more asynchronous participation from students who remain at home.



Lizzy Laidlaw will serve as the Distance Learning program coordinator for all grades and as a liaison between students/families participating in distance learning and teachers. Teachers will be involved in helping decide what distance learning will look like for their specific cohort and will be leading curriculum development and learning assessment for their students. Students participating in distance learning will have at least once daily opportunities for interactions with their on campus classmates. Some of the additional elements of the distance learning plan we are considering include: on campus buddies for distance learners, videoing of on-campus lessons and, depending on the cohort/grade level, live interactions and lessons by Zoom for on campus and distance learning students.

In general, curricular topics and benchmarks-focused learning goals will be consistent across formats but assignments may vary depending on learning format (distance learning vs on-campus) and the needs of individual students. Attendance will still be taken and students and families participating in distance learning will continue to have ongoing access to teaching teams for support, to provide and receive feedback, and to facilitate bi-directional communication. We understand and respect that this is a family decision and one that must be made carefully, with respect to the impact on the student experience, classroom community, and teacher load. More information will be shared in the next few weeks as plans develop.

Thank you,  
Lisa