



October 23, 2020

Dear Pacific Ridge School,

I write today with news regarding student density on campus. After much conversation and careful deliberation, Pacific Ridge School will go through one more cycle at 33% density and then use two objective pieces of data to determine our density from November 4 through Thanksgiving. Let me explain why.

Our teachers and our staff recognize that 50% density is our target model at present. However, County case numbers have us teetering into a more restrictive tier and, if we make a change next week, we might have to switch right back to 33% before Thanksgiving Break.

In addition, the positive cases we had on the PRS campus have created concern for some of our parents, faculty, and staff. This week we saw an increase in students staying remote during their on-campus days, and many of our faculty are concerned about how the number of cases in the larger community might create more risk with more students on campus.

In addition, we need to rethink our on-campus behavior in light of the CDC's new definition of a "Close Contact." According to a [new CDC statement regarding COVID-19 transmission](#) (just published Wednesday), we recognize that the virus may be able to transmit based upon the cumulative impact of "inside 6 feet" interactions over a 24-hour period. Said another way, if someone spends a cumulative 15 minutes inside 6 feet of a contagious person within 24 hours, COVID-19, transmission can occur. Our students have been terrific at keeping on their masks and staying distanced in formal, seated settings. However, like all of us, they have struggled to stay apart from one another while walking, waiting, and during other, casual moments in their day. Based upon this new knowledge of COVID transmission, we would like to spend a little time "re-training" ourselves for these passing moments before increasing density on campus.

Knowing that the school year is a "marathon, not a sprint," and we need to remain sustainable for everyone now until spring, we are going to hold back from an increase right now.

The attached schedule shows one more cycle of 33% density through November 3. We will monitor County data for another week and talk with our students about our new understanding of close contact.

On October 29, we will publish our density schedule for November 4 through December 7. If San Diego County continues to report "Red Tier" data and Pacific Ridge School has not had another positive case in the community, we will publish a density schedule that shows 50%

density from November 4 through the Thanksgiving holiday. If, on October 29, San Diego County is showing "Purple Tier" data or we have had another positive case in our on-campus community, we will publish a 33% density schedule.

As always, thanks for your patience and understanding as we continue to move through the year in this way.

Have a great Halloween week, and I'll be back in touch next week with our density schedule for more than a month. As always, please do let me know if you have any questions.

With thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BO", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Bob Ogle  
Head of School