



December 10, 2020

Dear parents and students,

It has been so great to see students back on campus these last couple of days. While the current state of the pandemic weighs heavily on us all, having students on campus enlivens everything in such wonderful ways. I am grateful for the opportunity to have them here.

Thank you so much for everyone's commitment to our first round of student COVID testing. Clearly, the State's travel quarantine order for Thanksgiving was an unexpected wrinkle, but by coming together as a community, we have found a way to bring students back on campus relatively quickly and safely. We also learned a lot about how to run our testing program for future iterations. Here are the results...

We tested 131 faculty and staff members, 395 students, and another 46 students submitted tests from other sources. The remainder of our student body comprises students who either have been learning from home this year or have elected to stay off campus until December 14. We had 568 negative results and 3 positive tests, with 1 result still pending. Of the three positive tests, one was a community member who was previously reported positive. The other two community members have not been on campus since Thanksgiving and are in isolation. One of those cases was completely asymptomatic and was unaware of exposure.

So, now we move into the week before the holidays and try to bring a bit of celebration to campus with our modified Gingerbread Breakfast celebrations next Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. In addition, we are busy making plans for the second half of the school year.

As mentioned during our November 11 webinar, we are looking to make some calendar adjustments based upon what we have learned about operating the school from September to now. The thinking behind those changes can be found on the attached document. Please review, as this document explains the modified calendar we will publish next week. We will have the January-to-June calendar and January density schedule available to you by December 18.

In addition, I want to note that, with the addition of student testing to our risk mitigation profile, our Health and Safety team has made some adjustments to our risk assessment matrix. Those changes can be seen here.

|                              | PURPLE<br>Tier 1   |                  |                  | RED<br>Tier 2   |                  | ORANGE<br>Tier 3   |                  |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
| Density                      | 0%*<br>0 grades  | 33%*<br>2 grades | 50%*<br>3 grades | 33%*<br>2 grades  | 50%*<br>3 grades | 50%*<br>3 grades   | 66%*<br>4 grades |
| Student Testing (% per week) | 0%   | >20%             | >40%             | >10%  | >20%             | >10%   | >20%             |
| Who is working               | Employees who can do their work from home may do so.                                   |                  |                  | All employees may work on campus.   |                  | All employees may work on campus.                                      |                  |
| Visitors                     | Per visitors policy, visitors are only allowed on campus after 3:30 pm or on weekends. |                  |                  | Per visitors policy, some visitors are allowed on campus during school day - most allowed after 3:30 pm or on weekends. |                  | Per visitors policy, visitors are allowed on campus during school day. |                  |

\*Pacific Ridge School reserves the right to review the regional data and adjust density whenever it seems necessary.

You will notice that this matrix now indicates 50% density as a possibility during the Purple tier (as long as we are testing at least 40% of our students on a weekly basis). That means that, while the County remains in the purple tier, we will come back from breaks either remotely or at 33% density for 5-6 days, conduct a round of testing, and then can begin 50% on-campus density with an ongoing testing program. We would prefer to open at 33%, test, and then move to 50%, but with the current state of the pandemic, we probably should plan on opening remotely in January.

We are developing the January-to-June calendar with this kind of density pattern in mind. In addition, we will be utilizing periodic asynchronous days to provide breaks to the rhythm of the year, and creating opportunities for more connection, movement, and activity.

As we head into the final stretch of 2020, let me just say how remarkable this year has been for me as Head of School. Obviously, it has been challenging, tiring, and not what any of us imagined. However, watching what a community can do when it must has been truly inspiring. Thank you for your support of our teachers and staff; they are working incredibly hard to make this year successful for us all. And, thank you for your willingness to be flexible as we have made our way through the many surprises we have had during the first half of this year.

As we keep reading in the news, the next 3-8 weeks will likely be challenging. However, Pacific Ridge School is prepared to launch into 2021 with a better understanding of how to operate in this environment (and a brand-new innovation center and library in early February!). With that understanding, we expect to be able to continue our signature education and provide new opportunities for our community to thrive.

As always, if you have any questions, please do ask.

Bob Ogle  
Head of School

Attachment: [January-June Calendar Adjustments](#)