



January 4, 2021

Dear Pacific Ridge School Community,

Happy New Year, and welcome back to school after a much-needed respite. I hope you were able to spend some safe, enjoyable time with family these last two weeks.

Obviously, 2021 brings all kinds of hope and excitement. With highly effective COVID vaccines on the way and the promise of more freedom of movement and socialization, 2021 is sure to be energizing. And, as I am sure everyone is aware, we are not there yet. COVID rates in San Diego County are at an all-time high and with the presence of a new variant in the virus (one that has increased transmissibility, not virulence), we hit 2021 at an important moment. We have very real needs of physical health and safety potentially at odds with very real needs of mental health and wellness. As always, we will try to delicately balance both needs over these critical next couple of months.

Please know that Pacific Ridge School intends to follow the January schedule and plan we laid out in December. We will be remote from January 4-8 (with an asynchronous day on January 8). We will COVID test our entire community from January 6-8. Those who test positive (and their close contacts) will be excluded from campus as per usual COVID guidelines. Anyone who wishes to come back to campus must be tested and provide a negative PCR test before returning. And, once we bring students back to campus, we intend to test a significant number of the school population every on-campus school day between January 12 and February 9.

As of now, we intend to welcome students back to campus on January 11. Of course, this plan could change if our testing reveals a significant rate of infection or if the State/County changes rules around school openings in the next seven days. In addition, we are working on surveillance testing markers and guidelines that will trigger short-term campus closures for all or part of our community during this important period in the school year and the pandemic.

Please look for an email from John Comforto later today with the requirements and sign-up process for our COVID testing later this week. Also, please plan to join me on Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. for a 15 to 30-minute update on how we are viewing the state of the pandemic at Pacific Ridge School and how you can help keep our school community operational and safe.

Yes, 2021 is going to be full of moments of joy and excitement. First, we have the opportunity to come together as a community to make sure we keep our students on campus and safe during this critical period. As we said at the beginning of this school year, "Together we Can."

Thanks for all your support and understanding,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Ogle', written in a cursive style.

Bob Ogle  
Head of School