



January 10, 2021

Dear Pacific Ridge School,

I write this afternoon with the results of our on-campus community COVID testing. As of this afternoon, we have received the results from UCSD's EXCITE testing program and, out of 603 tests, we have three positive results (two of which were people who had previously tested positive in 2020). That's a 0.5% positivity rate – below the 2.5+% rate that would have triggered a campus closure. The families of the three students, faculty, and staff who tested positive have been contacted, and they and their close contacts have been excluded from campus for the appropriate period of time.

Because our positivity percentage was below our threshold, we will open campus tomorrow morning for students in grades 8, 10, and 12 who have received a negative PCR test result sometime since January 6. Students in grades 7, 9, and 11 who received a negative test result will come to campus on Wednesday. I can't wait to see them all!

While this result is potentially a good sign, I caution us from becoming complacent. I would imagine that our low positivity rate is a result of luck, timing and good behavior. With COVID cases continuing to rise in San Diego County, we cannot count on good fortune and timing; we have to focus on good behavior. Please continue to do the things we know keep us safe, and please continue to refrain from sending a student to school who is symptomatic or has a known potential exposure.

Students and staff, let's remember to treat our time on campus as if we are coming to campus with COVID and that everyone we see on campus has COVID. While clearly that is not the case, treating ourselves and others as if we are all positive will ensure that we maintain distance, keep our faces covered, practice good hygiene, and keep ourselves safe.

We will be in touch in a day or two about our on-campus surveillance testing. We plan to begin on Wednesday, January 12. Whichever grade is being tested each day will be asked to arrive at school earlier than usual so that we can get everyone tested prior to starting classes. For the "grade of the day," testing will become part of the morning check-in procedure for that day. In addition, please know that from now until mid-winter break, we are planning to require students to participate in our testing program in order to be part of on-campus learning. While it has not yet become an official guideline, the County and State have intimated that counties in what is being called the "deep purple" tier should expect this requirement, and it makes sense under current circumstances.

With vaccines on their way, if we maintain safe on- and off-campus behavior, we are likely to be able to continue on-campus instruction during this critical period, while looking forward to freer days ahead. For now, we must continue to stay focused on what we know will best keep ourselves and our community safe.

We look forward to seeing our students on campus tomorrow morning.

Have a good evening,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Ogle". The signature is stylized with a large "B" and "O".

Bob Ogle  
Head of School

Attachment: Campus Schedule January/February 2021