



Dear Parents:

Good morning. I write to you today to recap some of the information I shared in last night's parent webinar. I appreciate so many of you taking time out of a busy week to attend and hear about our plans. I hope it was helpful, and thank you for working through our technological glitch at the beginning!

My next community letter, concerning bringing students back to campus next week, will come on Sunday.

As you know, those students who wish to return to campus next week are being COVID tested this week, mostly by our on-site testing team. We hope to have results from all three days of testing by Sunday and will look at our aggregate numbers at that time. If we have more than 2.5% positive cases, we will keep the school remote next week and repeat the testing on, what we imagine will be, Wednesday through Friday, 1/13-1/15. If we have 2.5% positive cases or fewer, we will open the campus as scheduled. This 2.5% threshold was determined by members of our Health and Safety Team, informed by analysis of available public health data. If the State and/or County publish a threshold percentage (something they have said they will) that differs, we may change that percentage at some point in the near future. As a reminder, when we tested our community after Thanksgiving Break, we had a 0.5% positivity rate.

Once back on campus, our goal will be to test students at the rate of a full grade per on-campus school day, meaning the entire student body will be tested roughly every six school days. We plan to start on January 12 or 13 and continue that practice through Feb 9 or 10. If we have 3 or more positive tests in a grade at any one time, that grade will learn remotely for a week. If we have multiple cases in multiple grades during the same week, we will consider taking the entire school remote for seven days as well.

The goal of this testing program is to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic positive cases in our school community and take them out of circulation on campus. Research studies have shown that this process, in combination with the other preventive measures we have taken, can greatly reduce the potential for on-campus transmission, keeping more students in school for greater periods of time. This is our goal for maintaining the health and well-being of our students.

State and County guidance appears to be moving in the direction of stating that schools in "deep purple"-tier counties will need to test weekly, so the cadence we are planning aligns with current thinking among public health officials.

Obviously, this plan is subject to change and we will notify you as quickly as possible in that event.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in the work we are doing here at Pacific Ridge. Our aim has been, and will be, to care for our community as best we can. As always, please let me know if you have any questions at all.

Until Sunday,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Ogle".

Bob Ogle
Head of School