

Dear SCCS Families,

It is my great pleasure to announce that we will **resume in-class instruction next month for elementary students** in Santa Cruz City Schools. While secondary schools' eligibility to reopen must wait for our County to move into the red COVID risk tier, elementary is preparing to begin Hybrid Instruction thanks to the planned full vaccination of our elementary school staff, our newly upgraded ventilation systems that cycle fresh filtered air into classrooms every 15 minutes and the success of our on-site safety measures.

We are planning to begin Elementary Hybrid Instruction mid March, with specific class start dates to come in the next two weeks as we finalize timelines and increase surveillance testing capacity. We will be holding a **Family Information Webinar on February 23rd at 6pm** to go over our Hybrid Instruction Model, run through COVID safety protocols, and address your questions and concerns.

I want to thank the County Office of Education and Dignity Health for their support in securing vaccinations for all of our elementary and special day class teachers, who will all have received their first dose by the end of the holiday weekend. Based on vaccine availability, we hope to be able to vaccinate our middle and high school staff in the coming weeks.

I want to remind everyone that our **Hybrid Instruction is not mandatory**. For all who prefer continued distance learning, details will be sent next week. All families will be welcome to change their preferences on whether to remain remote or join in-class learning as we lead up to a Hybrid opening.

To help in that decision, I wanted to share some details about our safety protocols. We recently experienced six COVID cases from community spread in our small in-person cohorts and, due to our safety measures, **these exposures resulted in no in-class spread** to classmates or teachers. Following exposure, we immediately closed and quarantined these cohorts. If there is exposure in a classroom during Hybrid Instruction, classrooms will be closed to quarantine. Despite the impact on families and their schedules, this is a required safety precaution to control the spread of COVID in our community.

A summary of our safety measures includes:

- Upgrades in filtration & efficiency to our ventilation systems
- Class & school redesign to support social distancing
- New sanitation protocols
- Personal Protective Equipment (masks, etc.) for our staff and students
- A public COVID web dashboard providing case transparency at school sites

It is with joy that we celebrate this first step back to normalcy. I want to thank you, all of our families and caregivers, for your patience and resilience as we navigated through much uncertainty this past year.

Please know, we have worked tirelessly to prepare our sites, our staff, and our safety precautions to be ready to welcome our students to campus. We all look forward to being back together very soon.

Best regards,

Kris Munro
Superintendent