



Shalom School

SACRAMENTO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

March 16, 2020

Dear Shalom School Families,

This morning, our faculty and staff are meeting to continue our planning for the next few weeks of school closure. Our goals for the weeks ahead are threefold:

- to nurture our connections with your children and your family
- to provide meaningful and age-appropriate distance education
- to serve as a resource and support as we all navigate this new and challenging landscape

We anticipate that this process will be iterative—we will be assessing and revising plans as we move forward, learning as we go and fine-tuning our practices. Please stay patient with us; we are so grateful for the support and partnership you have already provided and appreciate your flexibility.

For those of you who need to pick up a loaner device for your child and/or retrieve items from school, our campus will be open to parents today between 12 noon and 1 pm. If you are not able to come then, please call the office this morning, and we will arrange for another time.

Beginning tomorrow, we will commence with distance education. Please note the following important details:

- You will receive an email from your child's teachers each weekday.
- Please make sure that your email address is updated in our system and that you have adjusted your spam filters to make sure you receive mail from us.
- The daily email will have age-appropriate information based on your child's class.
- For our youngest students, look for greetings from teachers, information about how to maintain your child's daily routine, and ideas for home activities.
- For elementary students, look for classroom assignments, instructional videos, and curricular resources, along with suggestions for time frames and schedules.
- We are exploring options for conducting the elementary conferences scheduled later this week and look forward to sharing more information about that with you by Wednesday.
- Please continue to visit the page on our website that includes updates about COVID-19 as well as many educational resources for families. <https://www.shalomschool.org/coronavirus>

Teachers will also be checking in with you by phone over the following weeks. If you would prefer NOT to get phone calls, please email your child's teachers to let them know. Please note that teachers will likely be calling from their own cell phones with their numbers blocked, and we have instructed them not to leave personal phone numbers for call backs. If you miss a call from the teachers, they will try to leave a voicemail; please then email back to set up a time for them to try you again.

We have been incredibly moved by those of you who have been in touch to ask about our teachers and their well-being. We want to reassure you that although most of us will be working remotely, we will all be responding to email and be available to offer you as much support as we can. Our maintenance and janitorial staff will be in the building over the next two weeks to carry out deep cleaning. Please also rest assured that all of our staff will be paid during this closure, regardless of their job responsibilities.

Reb Nachman taught that "the world is a very narrow bridge." Many of us are lucky enough that the bridge doesn't always feel so narrow to us in our everyday lives because we are fortunate to live in relative privilege and safety. But for many of us, the bridge feels narrower than ever as we think about coronavirus, social distancing, and fears of illness for ourselves and others. Reb Nachman also taught "the most important thing is not to be afraid." It can be very difficult not to be afraid, but we hope that you are finding courage even in this uncertain time and that your child's and your family's ongoing connection to our community is one of the things that is buoying you up as we all try to stay brave.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to be in touch with any of our staff or either of us.

L'shalom,

Nancy and Laura

www.shalomschool.org

