



Shalom School

SACRAMENTO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

March 12, 2020

Dear Shalom School Families,

I am writing with an update on our school's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As you know, the situation is dynamic and rapidly changing, and we are working hard to gather all information available and make the best possible decisions to keep our students, staff, and community safe and healthy.

We continue to follow the guidance of the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Sacramento County Public Health Department. Additionally, I have been getting advice from medical and public health experts in our community and from our educational partners at the National Association of Independent Schools and PRIZMAH, our Jewish day school network. At this point, we have not been advised to close school. Making the decision to close school would be a significant step with wide ranging impacts, and we would not make such a decision without the guidance of public health experts. If that were to occur, we would notify you as quickly as possible.

In the event that our school is closed temporarily, we have developed a plan for distance learning in order to allow as many students as possible to continue their learning from home. Our elementary school teachers have access to Google Classroom as well as a range of online resources, and in the event of a closure, we would share a combination of hard-copy packets and electronic resources to continue instruction. Many of the materials and strategies we would use are resources that are already familiar to elementary students and teachers. Specific plans as well as information about communication with teachers will be shared with you by your students' teachers in the event we need to close our school.

If school is closed, all school events will be postponed or cancelled. We are evaluating each scheduled event and field trip in the meantime to see if we feel we can safely move forward and will continue to update you with any changes. **Please note that we do have two program changes that have already been decided—**tomorrow's 3rd Grade Chumash Ceremony was originally planned as an all-elementary school event. Instead, we are inviting only students' families (including siblings) to attend in person and will also live-stream the ceremony, and we are advising any guests who are identified as high-risk to refrain from attending in person. Secondly, we will forgo our usual Kabbalat Shabbat gathering in the chagigah tomorrow afternoon, and instead we will stay in classrooms and broadcast the service over our intercom system. Both of these changes are the result of the guidance from state and local health experts that large public gatherings should be avoided.

We remain committed to clear and frequent communication with you. For the latest updates and information, please visit our website regularly.

We understand that students and families depend on school, and we will continue to take every possible precaution to keep school safe and healthy. I continue to be enormously grateful to our staff for their patience, flexibility, and professionalism and to each of you for your partnership.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch should you have questions or concerns.

L'shalom,

Nancy

