



# Shalom School

SACRAMENTO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

March 13, 2020

Dear Shalom School Families,

I want to thank all of you and our incredible faculty and staff for your patience, trust, and support as we have navigated the complicated and challenging Coronavirus situation. It is with a heavy heart that I write to share with you our decision to close school beginning **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will close through **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** and will continue to monitor the situation carefully; if a longer closure is warranted as we learn more, we will let you know with as much notice as possible.

In the last few days, we have learned of widespread announcements of school closures in our area, including the announcement just this afternoon that all Sacramento area public schools will close for up to three weeks. We are learning more and more from our medical and public health partners that “flattening the curve” of transmission is our greatest hope in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and that mitigating risk requires a level of social distancing that is not possible in our school environment. As such, even though we do not have any reported cases in our school community, today will be our last in-person instructional day. Dismissal times today will be as usual. There will be no school on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, our entire faculty will be preparing for this extended closure, and distance learning will begin on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for students in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Plans will look different in each grade level, and you can expect more information from your child’s teacher on Tuesday. Though we cannot offer distance learning for our Early Childhood Education students, we are planning to have teachers make recommendations for home activities and to be in regular communication with families during the closure; again, look for additional details from us on Monday and Tuesday.

Teachers will be helping students gather all of their belongings today to take home. The school building will be closed to students and families starting on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that our elementary students will need access to a computer with internet capability in order to participate in distance learning. If you do not have a computer with internet that your student can use, please call our office today or Monday, and we will make arrangements to loan your student a device through the closure.

I know that this is uncharted territory for us all. We still have many details to confirm and plans to develop. Early next week, we will be exploring whether we can move our parent/teacher/student conferences, scheduled for next Thursday and Friday, to an online format, and we will let you know about those plans as soon as we are able.

We will continue to be available by email and to update you with information as we have it. Our tradition teaches, “Do not separate yourself from the community,” and for many of us, the idea of “social distancing,” to say nothing of the loss of our daily routines and interactions, is profoundly disorienting. I urge us all to stay connected as best we can, to take the situation and its risks seriously without losing hope, and to take good care of ourselves and others. May we all move through this difficult time in health and peace.

Shabbat shalom,

*Nancy Leaderman*  
Head of School

*Andrew Bluth*  
President, Board of Trustees

[www.shalomschool.org](http://www.shalomschool.org)

