



July 31, 2020

Dear Waverly Community,

In our letter emailed to you on July 17, we indicated that we would make a final decision on our return plan by today, July 31.

Last Tuesday, in a meeting with area Heads of School, Dr. Ying-Ying Goh, Pasadena Director of Public Health, gave a candid assessment of the state of COVID-19 in Pasadena. The current rate of infection in Pasadena is high, and not trending in a way that would support in-person learning for the entire school that is safe for students, teachers, and families, in the near future. The California Department of Public Health, working closely with Pasadena local agencies, will be publishing a waiver for K-6 schools, outlining further criteria to open in person. We will review this document carefully as we evaluate our options.

PUSD (Pasadena Unified School District) and some of our peer independent schools have committed to remote learning through the end of October. Similarly, we have decided to begin the school year in remote learning, **Kindergarten through 12th grade**. Unless there is a significant decrease in the infection rate and proposed governmental support for reentry that increases the safety of all students, teachers, and families, we anticipate staying in remote learning through the end of the calendar year, December 18.

Our goal continues to resume in person as soon as it is reasonable and safe. We will monitor updates from local agencies and reassess regularly. When we do propose a safe in-person plan, there will continue to be an option for families to remain fully remote.

We know that this news might be discouraging to students, parents, and guardians. While we are also disappointed that we cannot be in person with students; we are eager, energized, and excited to deliver a remote learning program based in best practices, thoughtful technology, and connectedness. We have been working throughout the summer to prepare for the possibility of being fully remote and look forward to re-engaging with students this fall as they come back into our virtual classrooms and into our community. Teachers are ready to welcome students into the engaging social, emotional, and thoughtful academic learning that will characterize the Waverly experience this fall. Our program will be as stimulating, responsive, supportive, and conscious of our students and families during this difficult time as it would be

were we together on campus. We appreciate the opportunity to bring the Waverly experience into your home once again.

The Waverly **preschool** program will begin in person starting in September. Considering the unique needs of preschool students, the ability to run a safe program that is mostly outdoors, and the regulations provided by CDSS, Cal OSHA, and the California Department of Public Health, we feel confident in offering an in-person learning plan for our preschool children. We know there are many questions that come with this announcement. We will send out detailed plans next week, including exact start date and times, along with an opportunity to connect and ask further questions in a future Zoom meeting.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending regular updates by division to communicate with you about exact start dates and times, schedules, class placement, and community events. As is the case with our planning every August, our faculty and staff await the students with eagerness and anticipation. More than ever, we look forward to the many ways we can reconnect.

Looking forward,

Heidi Johnson
Head of School