

Good Afternoon Chico Country Day School Families,

The purpose of this email is to provide our families a few updates regarding reopening. This message will be posted on our COVID-19 response page at <https://www.chicocountryday.org/return-to-school-2020-21/>. We are encouraged by our county's Red Tier status and look forward to welcoming students back to campus.

Our priorities for re-opening remain the same as we discussed over the summer: All students back to school as soon as possible. All staff back to school as soon as possible. Maintaining consistency for all students. Providing a safe and healthy campus for the entire CCDS community. Reopen and Stay Open.

### **Timeline for Reopening**

Similar to other schools in our county, CCDS is taking a deliberate and intentional approach to reopening campuses. Our proposal at this time is to take a tiered approach to grade-level return to campus, with TK-2nd beginning on October 26th, 3-5th on November 2nd, and 6-8th on November 9th. [Review our Reopening Handbook here.](#)

**Schedules:** First through fifth grade will follow the [A/B Cohort Model we outlined this summer](#), with students on campus either Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday from 8:30-11:30 at this time, with the ability to increase time on campus as we develop the structures and routines of hybrid instruction. A few opportunities this schedule allows for: the most opportunity to increase our daily time on campus, time for teachers to connect with off-campus learners, and provides the possibility for ASP on students' on-campus days. A full am/pm model wouldn't allow for many of those opportunities, including deep-cleaning between cohorts, which we weighed very carefully as this return to school time approaches.

TK and K will follow an am/pm schedule: 8:30-10:30am or 12:30-2:30pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Fri. This additional on-campus time will help TK and K students learn the routines of school and become more familiar with our campus and classroom routines, while also providing social emotional learning time. Our janitorial staff also has the capacity to clean these four classrooms between morning and afternoon cohorts.

### **Wednesday will be a deep cleaning of the entire campus.**

The specific middle school schedule is something we will finalize this week as it presents some unique challenges. We will communicate their schedule later this week. We know the social emotional well-being of our middle schoolers relies heavily on peer interaction and will find additional ways to create those opportunities on campus now that we are in the Red Tier. We have been very encouraged by the format, content, and participation in the middle school and appreciate all your support!

A final decision regarding our reopening timeline will be made at the October 14th CCDS Board meeting. We will provide an update after that meeting for all families. For those who are interested, all of our Board meeting information can always be found [on this page](#).

Regardless of the date students return to campus, families have the option to remain in full distance learning. All teachers and grade levels will continue to use Altitude Learning for the remainder of this school year, whether in hybrid or distance learning models.

### **Staff Returning to Campus**

In talking to San Diego and Orange County school leaders, who are ahead of us in the reopening process, they each noted that the transition to hybrid instruction takes a significant amount of time. In many ways teachers will be reinventing instruction again as we transition from full distance learning to a hybrid model. This upcoming week is Heart to Heart Project Week, which will provide an in-depth Project Based Learning opportunity for students, while also giving teachers time to reinvent their instructional practices to meet the needs of hybrid instruction.

When we do move into hybrid instruction, you will see the daily synchronous teacher learning times adjust, because teachers will be fully present with their students on campus. We do not intend to livestream classes, as that has not proven to be effective for students online nor is it the best use of in-person time for students on campus. Teachers will use some of the time after students are dismissed to connect with the students who are learning off campus. An example may be a first grade teacher holding a reading group at 12:30 pm with ½ of the B Cohort on Monday and the other ½ of B on Tuesday. Then when the B cohort is on campus Thursday and Friday, they will also receive specific reading instruction with their teacher. In addition to these small groups on their off-campus days, teachers will also continue to provide learning opportunities via asynchronous video instruction and Altitude Learning cards that will be accessible at any point during the day.

### **Safety Protocols**

Many families, students, and staff have expressed that their primary concern about students returning to campus is the on-going health and safety of our community. This is especially true as we move into the flu/cold season and some people potentially attend mixed-household holiday gatherings. In order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on campus, CCDS is implementing the following health and safety protocols and will continue to refine these as we get closer to students returning to campus.

- Structures to promote 6-foot physical distancing on campus
- Required use of face coverings for all adults and 3rd-8th grade students in alignment with the CDPH face coverings protocols for schools
- Daily symptoms screening for students who come onto campus
- Egress “traffic flow” markers throughout campus
- Group tables replaced with individual student desks in most classrooms

- All extraneous furniture removed to create distancing between student work areas
- Installation of plexiglass barriers in office locations, as well as some classroom spaces
- Moving instruction outdoors when possible
- Optimized HVAC systems to promote ventilation and air flow in all indoor spaces
- Hand-sanitizer and handwashing available in all classrooms, as well as on campus in multiple high traffic locations
- Training for all students and staff when they return to campus
- Cohort closures when students or staff members test positive

### **Helping Your Child Prepare**

When students return to campus they will be returning to an environment very different from the one they left in March. As each of us experienced the first time we walked into a grocery store, restaurant, or other business implementing COVID-19 protocols, coming back to a campus with new protocols and distancing. While our teachers and staff will ensure CCDS continues to be the same welcoming, inclusive, joyful, and supportive environment, all staff and students will be required (3rd-12th grade) or strongly encouraged (TK-2nd grade) to wear face coverings when on campus and 6-foot physical distancing will be in effect in all classrooms.

In our most recent surveys, some students expressed anxiety about returning to campus. If your child has yet to navigate the COVID-19 protocols in public or is expressing concerns about returning to campus now is a great time to help them prepare for the transition by talking about what they can expect and how they can keep themselves safe as we all live with COVID19.

Finally, as we head into this fall season, we strongly urge every family in our community to follow the COVID19 protocols of wearing masks, physically distancing, and practicing respiratory etiquette when out in public. We want to limit transmission in our community so that everyone can return to campus. If each of us does our part we will be able to protect the health and safety of our community and keep our campus open for our students.

We appreciate your kindness, patience, and support as we put the pieces in place to welcome students back to campus. Our teachers and staff feel your support and it has made a big impact on what we've been able to accomplish with your students.

In Gratitude,

Wendy, Margaret, Claudia, and Amie