



From the desk of

Mrs. Laura Bernauer



St Albans Map To Moving Forward

July 31, 2020

Dear St. Albans Parents,

Thank you for your swift and thoughtful response to our parent survey earlier this week. We received 195 responses and the results were extremely helpful as we finalized our approach to the beginning of this year.

I am excited to announce that **St. Albans plans to begin the 2020-2021 school as originally scheduled on August 19, 2020.** (56% of St. Albans Parents stated they preferred this original start date over a postponement - [see complete survey results here.](#))

Start of School:

1) If Placer County is no longer on the California State Watch List between August 5 through August 18, we look forward to welcoming students and teachers back to campus on August 19 in our standard five-day-a-week schedule. (68% of families stated that they prefer their child to learn via in-person instruction when Placer County is not on the Watch List - [see complete survey results here](#)).

- While some adjustments will be necessary to classroom, day care, and campus activities, we are confident that our students will find their return to campus a *joyful* and inspiring experience with their peers.
- Our return to campus plans are based on the following Guiding Principles:
 - Safety and Wellbeing First
 - Extraordinary Academics

- On-Campus Learning Preferred
 - Consistent Adaptability
- Elements of the revised student experience will include:
 - **Cohorting** - Students and teachers will become learning communities by class year and will limit exposure outside of their immediate classroom.
 - **Low-density learning environment** - We are able to accommodate social distancing at St. Albans because of our smaller class sizes and more spacious campus facilities. We will limit student movement in between classes and interactions between classes during recess and lunch. Additionally, we have new outdoor learning spaces designed to allow socially distanced, fresh air activities with classmates.
 - **Masking** - **A change from previous communications.* The Executive Board met on July 22, 2020, and made the decision that masking will be required for all students (all grades) and adults while on campus, unless a teacher uses the outdoor learning space which accommodates open air and socially distanced interaction.
 - **Symptom Checking** - At the beginning of school each day, every student will have their temperature checked by their teacher. A robust protocol (shared below) will be followed for all positive symptoms.
 - **Lunch and Recess** - Students will remain with their classmates, and will not intermingle with other classes during recess. Lunches will be individually prepared, wrapped and delivered to each classroom, where students will remain with their cohorts.
 - **Flexibility** - We have planned for both in-person and distance learning scenarios, and will transition readily in response to state mandates. As a small school with only one class per grade level, we cannot accommodate both in-person and full distance learning programs simultaneously. However, we are still working on an option that would provide worksheets, email and a few livestreamed lessons per day for those families that wish to have their children remain home for longer than the governor's current suggested timeline. This option would not be equal to our in-class learning or our distance learning experience.
 - **Link to detailed ST. ALBANS COVID PROTOCOLS** – [Please click here](#) for a more detailed overview of the accommodations we are making for a safe return to school. New evidence and data about COVID-19 transmission, including variations by age, emerge regularly, and this document will be updated to note that information. We have created a robust plan including contact tracing, symptom checking and protocols for responding to varying scenarios.

2) If Placer County remains on the California Covid-19 Watch List as of August 5 (14 days prior to the start of school) or returns to the Watch List prior to August 19, we plan to begin the year with distance learning.

A more detailed communication with our distance learning expectations, schedule and zoom meeting requirements will be shared soon. We have made some changes to our distance learning to ensure students are getting the most out of the experience. Our distance learning curriculum will feature:

- The standard St. Albans full-day class schedule, five-days-per-week, with faculty instruction.
- Live streaming video conferencing with classmates led by their class teacher or aide
- Adjunct instruction in Spanish, Music, Reading, PE, and Art.
- Individualized instruction time with aides for lower grades.
- When the County is removed from the Watch List we will swiftly return to campus for onsite instruction.

3) 57% of parents responded in favor of applying for a waiver to open school, in some capacity, while Placer County is on the California Covid-19 Watch List ([Link to survey data here](#)). In response, we are exploring the waiver option to provide full or partial return to class while under the watch list. A waiver is only granted if requested in consultation with labor, parent and community organizations, as well as a review by local health officers of epidemiological data and the CDPH. We do not yet have details about waiver applications or offerings, but we will share information in complete transparency as we move forward in our exploration.

The plan above recognizes the dynamic nature of our current situation and allows us to pivot to meet the needs of our community and to transition to distance learning as needed when the state of California places Placer County on the Covid-19 Watch List.

As we have stated, our primary goal is to have students in the classroom. We agree with the recommendations of the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) that the best place for students is to be physically present in school with their peers during this time, and we are creating the safest school environment to do so.

Our Board, staff and faculty have used the latest health information, along with educational best-practices, to develop this plan for 2020-2021 and ensure that this year will be a pleasure for every student and teacher.

We are counting on our entire community to help ensure our school environment remains healthy. This includes the actions and interactions taking place in your home environment. We will be sharing more details soon, but we urge you to continually:

- Teach healthy hygiene
- Maintain preventative health practices
- Attend to your children's emotional well-being
- Practice social distancing
- Practice wearing face masks
- Self-quarantine as necessary
- Be thoughtful regarding gathering with friends

We look forward to the start of the year and engaging with all of our students once again! In the meantime, I will keep you updated with any new information and hope you are enjoying your summers together.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laura Bernauer

Head of School