

# A Note from...



**John Fowler**  
TCS HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

On Monday afternoon, the California Department of Education released its long-awaited [guidebook](#) for reopening schools, just after the Department of Health issued its own. The CDE guidelines are comprehensive and detailed, and we are going through them carefully. **Our preliminary reading of both the state Health and Education Department rules indicates that, if local conditions allow, TCS can look forward to normal hours of in-person instruction next year.**

Our current focus is on evaluating where we already are with respect to new State and CDC health requirements for policies, procedures, and purchasing. We are also working on the employee handbook. I would like to emphasize two very important points: first, that our top priority is student and staff safety, and second, that we are aware of the mental toll this health crisis has exacted on our young friends. We know that our ability to provide a safe, structured, and vibrant school experience that is as normal as possible will help us keep growing great kids through this exceptional time.

Yesterday, at the County Board of Education meeting, officials announced that they would begin studying the new state regulations. They anticipate coming out with their own guidance for in-person school openings in the next few weeks. Because we started so early, and because we have been following federal recommendations, we are well ahead of the county. Once the district releases its recommendations for public schools we will be able to use the applicable sections for cross-reference in evaluating our own work.

We are committed to providing frequent updates as our planning clears the hurdles imposed by state and local officials. Our communications will be broadly focused on two areas: academic program, and health and safety. Of the two, the academic aspect is far more straightforward, especially because it is now clear that under the regulations we have the capacity to welcome all of our friends in the fall. I am finalizing hiring and teaching assignments, and will send a communication on this topic early next week. We will also have a peek into how we are using class scheduling to support physical distancing available very soon. More detailed information about health and safety will be released later in the summer, as all policies are vetted to ensure we are following best practice.

Even though there is an enormous amount of work ahead of us, we are truly moved to officially begin the process of reopening our beloved school.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Fowler".

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