

Dear NP<sup>3</sup> families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Our July communication stated that we would continue with distance learning through at least August 28th. Unfortunately current conditions do not support a return to in-person instruction at this time and we will continue with distance learning through at least the Fall Break. Sacramento County is still seeing concerning levels of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths and as such, we believe continuing with distance learning is safest for our students, teachers, and families.

Earlier this week Sacramento County Public Health announced that they would begin accepting waiver applications for elementary schools (grades K-6) who would like to reopen for in-person instruction. The waiver process was put in place by the State and allows local discretion in counties that remain on the state monitoring list. NP<sup>3</sup> will not be applying for a waiver to operate its elementary school at this time. Schools serving grades 7-12 are not eligible to apply for a waiver for in-person instruction at this time. We will continue to monitor local COVID-19 conditions and will reopen for in-person instruction only when we believe it is safe to do so.

We understand that many of our families would like to see their children return to campus for instruction, however, we must be guided by the health and safety of our local and school community. While there is some science that indicates children may be at lower risk for complications from COVID-19, children are not the only members of the NP<sup>3</sup> community impacted by a decision to return to in-person learning. Our decision to continue with distance learning is driven by a desire to care for everyone in our community, including parents, grandparents, teachers, and staff.

With the number of cases currently in Sacramento, it is likely that schools that reopen for in-person instruction will have positive cases among their students and staff, which will likely result in full or partial closures for their campuses. NP<sup>3</sup> believes that providing consistency for our students, teachers, and families is important and the disruption caused by potential closures would create numerous challenges for our community.

We greatly appreciate your support with distance learning. Student attendance and participation has been outstanding and our teachers are working hard to engage and motivate all of our students. We will continue to evaluate local conditions and will communicate our plans for the second quarter of the school year no later than September 19.

Tom Rutten  
Executive Director  
Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep Schools