

March 19, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends,

On March 17th the Sonoma County Health Officer issued an order directing residents to shelter in place, effective at midnight on March 18th. During a press conference yesterday, Governor Newsom made a comment suggesting that schools could possibly not reopen this school year and would remain closed until the 2020-21 school year. **Please note: this is not an official order and no Sonoma County school has decided to close for the remainder of the school year.** At this time, the consensus of Sonoma County school leaders is that we will work under the current shelter-in-place order and make decisions as conditions change.

As this all evolves, we will provide you with further updates. Thank you for all that you are doing to support each other during this unique time.

### **Distance Learning**

Since Live Oak faculty and staff are currently on Spring Break, I am making plans for our first day back from Spring Break in order to begin preparing for distance learning options. As previously mentioned, the goal of Distance Learning is not to replace in-class instruction, but to provide continuity of learning. This program will assist students to stay in academic practice, continuing engagement with learning, and supporting social emotional needs by providing an opportunity for a daily routine. Faculty will draw from a pool of resources in order to develop a plan to provide lessons or presentations for student learning. Also, faculty will be working from home and coming to Live Oak as needed to gather and prepare distance learning materials. You can expect to hear from your teacher regarding your student(s) distance learning by Thursday or Friday of next week. We plan to officially begin distance learning on Monday, March 30.

To meet student learning needs, we plan to designate a date and time when students and families will have the opportunity to pick up any distance learning materials such as packets, books, materials, etc. and, if needed, to check out a limited supply of Chromebooks (only for those who do not have any access to a device in the home). I will send another communication regarding specific logistics and guidelines for acquiring distance learning materials at Live Oak.

### **Internet Access**

In terms of internet access, most major carriers are currently making offers to help anyone with no internet access. You can use your smart phone to create a hot spot and Comcast is offering new Internet Essentials customers **two free months of Internet service**, which is available to all qualified low-income households. Apply by April 30. <https://apply.internetessentials.com/>

Sonic is offering **three months of free internet access** and unlimited nationwide home telephone service to households with K-12, college students, or senior citizens 60 or older.

Based on location, service is available through their fiber-optic network, with symmetric speeds of up to 1Gbps (1000Mbps/1000Mbps download, and upload) on their copper network, with speeds up to 50Mbps. There are no data caps, so it is ideal for students who are streaming distance learning during the coronavirus crisis. Check it out: <https://www.sonic.com/availability>

For financial assistance for current customers, please contact [billing@sonic.net](mailto:billing@sonic.net)

### **School Meals**

Live Oak is participating in Petaluma City Schools (PCS) food service in the form of grab-and-go meals beginning on Monday, March 23rd. Meals can be picked up at McDowell Elementary and Petaluma Junior High School—**students must be present**. This is available to all PCS students, Live Oak students, and any siblings under 18. You do **not** need to be eligible for free and reduced lunch. This service will be provided until school facilities re-open.

### **When?**

Mondays from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM (3 meals)

Thursdays from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (2 meals)

**Where?**

Petaluma Junior High: Pickup location is in front of the school, in the bus drop-off area

McDowell: Pickup location is off McGregor in front of the multi, in the bus drop-off area

I hope that you and your family are making the best out of these unique times. We all have a story about the Coronavirus disruption. For me, back in January, I made plans for Spring Break to fly to Arizona in order to attend a surprise 75th birthday party for my mother. Now, I find myself following the "Shelter In Place" ordinance while using Facetime to sing Happy Birthday. Didn't see any of that coming!

We are all in this together and I know that we will remain calm and get through it because we are a resilient and strong community of wonderful people. Thank you all for your ongoing patience and support.

In community,

Justin Tomola

Director