

August 18, 2021

Dear Live Oak Charter School Families,

Happy First Week of School! Thank you to all the Live Oak faculty/staff, families, and students for a great first two days. In addition to the smiles, laughs, and giggles abounding the campus, I observed students, parents, and staff following our health and safety guidance. A big heartfelt thank you to everyone for their efforts in creating fun, enthusiastic, and best of all safe return in-person learning.

As we settle into this new year and the first week of school, many of you have been asking about the current smoke and air quality and how it will impact our COVID protocols. Below is information from Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) that will shine light onto the question of what schools are doing with regards to keeping windows open per our COVID protocols or closed to protect against the smoke.

*Our current understanding is that, at the moderate smoke level (**yellow**), it would be acceptable to keep the windows open. However, for schools with strong HVAC air filtration systems and/or classroom-based air purifiers (which are effective for both smoke and COVID), closing windows is acceptable and may be the safest option.*

*If there is a localized reading of unhealthy air quality on fire.airnow.gov (**orange or above**), or if students are exhibiting symptoms of distress, consider closing your windows or taking other mitigation measures. If air quality is in the **red (unhealthy) or purple (very unhealthy)**, windows should definitely be closed.*

We encourage you to visit scoe.org/airquality for smoke-related guidance and resources.

We will continue to discuss these issues with our county health and air quality district partners and will provide updates should guidance change based on the pandemic conditions.

Remember, Live Oak has top of the line IQ air purifiers in our classrooms which during the summer were inspected to ensure proper working condition. Also, recently purchased air purifiers for our After School and Music rooms. Additionally, our HVAC systems continues to be thoroughly serviced and maintained through our long-term and local HVAC partner, Arolo Company Inc.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration during the last 18 months. Through working together, we will have a year full of opportunities, growth, and making lasting memories!

Best,
Justin Tomola
Director