

January 8, 2021

Dear Live Oak Charter Community Members,

Happy New Year!

This past week withstanding, I am feeling very optimistic that 2021 will be a great year! Around here we like to think that 2020 provided us with many, many, many opportunities for growth! As I have said before, if it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed your Winter Holiday and closing out 2020 in a warm, safe, and healthy way.

During the Holiday and much as we expected, COVID-19 has spread significantly across the state with a surge in cases. The impact of this spread is still unfolding, and we won't likely know exactly how that impacts our community until later this month. Hopefully after a few weeks this pandemic will begin to be brought under control with the new vaccines that are slowly distributed to front line workers. The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) is working with the State in determining the next priority for when the vaccine will be available to public school faculty and staff. As of now, we are still using the criteria of being in the red tier for at least four consecutive weeks before starting in person learning. I am re-attaching a video that explains this in more detail. Please click on the link of [Reopening criteria](#) to learn more. Additionally there is another video that explains [What to expect upon returning](#) that I encourage you to watch. Both of these videos are posted on our website under the COVID-19 resource section, click [here](#) to access.

Additionally, I have contacted SCOE with regards to any new or additional information or resources they can share with us regarding Governor Newsom's proposed legislature. Below is the information they shared:

*"We have seen the summary of the proposed guidance and appreciate the Governor's intent to provide financial support and streamlined directives for schools to reopen. At this point, the plan is just a proposal that must be worked out in the legislature, and many important details remain to be seen. We will continue working closely with our public health partners and our districts to determine what this means for Sonoma County schools and how we can best support a safe reopening. Whatever plan we approve will be gradual and phased in." Dr. Steve Herrington, Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools*

Thank you for continuing to support your children and teachers. 2021 will be the year that ushers in the return to campus and we will be able to see each other and rejoin our friends at school for in-person learning!

Best,

Justin Tomola

Director