



November 17, 2020

Dear Families,

CPE1 is preparing for opposite scenarios. Today, we're looking around the building for more tables, since we soon will have about 30% more in-person students. But last Friday, staff took home supplies and class pets, because the mayor announced schools could close before the start of this week. So, either many more children will be learning in our school building, or no one will.

Let's start with the closure that has not yet happened. The mayor promised to shut all public school buildings if the city's seven-day average climbed above three percent. Over the past week, some days have been a little above three percent, and some a little below. So far, the city has stayed below the school closure line. We do not know how long school buildings would be close. If we know the closure will be brief, CPE1 would make no changes to the at-home learning all students already know.

At the same time, we are getting ready for nineteen more in-person students. These additional children *just* fit, as long as we reorganize. Here is how:

- Charlotte's class will move to the larger movement room
- Cecilia's class will move Room 201, which usually holds our second pre-K class
- Aishah, Marilyn, Patricia, Simone, and Tia will reconfigure their rooms for more individual work spaces

CPE1's large classrooms have many windows. We can add children while maintaining social distancing and air flow. The way we reconfigure classrooms requires some compromises, such as reducing block areas. We think that's better for the school over all.

For some families impacted by the pandemic, in-person school simply is not an option. Nearly half of our students will stay fully remote. Remote teachers will not

move into in-person classrooms. Re-organizing our classroom spaces allows us to keep the same number of teachers working remotely. Our 100% remote students will continue to have more interactive and more small-group learning than in most schools. In fact, in our fully remote classrooms, the ratio students to teachers is about to improve.

This week, grade-level teams will meet to assign the new in-person students to classes. Our whole staff will meet on Monday to discuss how we have balanced our classes. Next Tuesday, if your child is switching to in-person learning, we will let you know the teacher. Then, starting the week after Thanksgiving, we will welcome nineteen children to their new, in-person classrooms.

This is a lot of change for the middle of the year. At the same time, at a time when so much is uncertain, we are emphasizing consistency. Now, I'm just hoping we can get started on these new plans. Open school buildings signal that our city's COVID rates are getting lower. We need that. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and root for good test results.

Rethinking Community by Rethinking Meetings

On Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00, our parent association will meet to discuss, well, meeting. [Click here to see the agenda](#). One of the first orders of business is figuring out how to come together in such unusual times. For example, because we can't have in-person parent association meetings, we cannot provide dinner and childcare. So if you still have to watch your kids and provide dinner, what's the best time to meet as a PA? How can connections form when we are all so much further apart?

There is so much to think about, in all new ways. Here is how to join.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2138220018?pwd=Ynd1VkREQjlsRU16alpUQytDa1JlUT09>

Meeting ID: 213 822 0018

Passcode: 471217

See you at the meeting.

Gabriel