



## El Sol Science & Arts Academy

*An Excellent Public School*

May 18, 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to provide an update on El Sol Academy's closure and plans for reopening the school in the fall. I am sure many of you heard Governor Newsom's comments last week about the possibility of starting school early next year; however, El Sol Academy plans to return as scheduled on Monday, August 17th. Our hope is that between now and then, the stay-at-home and social distancing restrictions will be eased to allow for in-person schooling.

Last week the governor provided a roadmap to reopen the economy and public services in a phase-by-phase approach:

Stage 1: Safety and Preparedness

Stage 2: Lower Risk Workplaces

Stage 3: Higher Risk Workplaces

Stage 4: End of Stay-at-Home Order

Under Stage 2, he included schools and childcare facilities opening in a modified manner to provide support for parents transitioning back to the workforce and address gaps in students' education, provided that the following conditions have been met:

- Have stable hospitalization and ICU trends.
- Have hospital surge capacity to meet demand.
- Have sufficient personal protective equipment supply to meet demand.
- Have sufficient testing capacity to meet demand.
- Have contact tracing capacity statewide.

Even when these conditions are met, social distancing in schools may require students and staff to wear personal protective equipment, gather in smaller groups, and attend staggered class schedules. The El Sol Academy team is actively working on a plan for these modifications, should they be necessary.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide distance learning through the end of the school year on Thursday, June 11th.

Through the generous support of the El Sol Foundation, El Sol will provide remote (or modified according to health orders) summer school for all students as follows:

- Summer School for identified (preschool, elementary, middle school) students will take place from June 29th - July 24th



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- Promotion celebrations for the middle school class of 2020 will take place on June 10th at 10:00 a.m. for 5th grade, June 11th at 10:00 a.m. for 8th grade and 12pm for Kinder. They will all follow the social distancing requirements in place at that time. We will keep families informed of developments.
- Campus remains closed to students, staff and the community to support the statewide effort to fight the spread of COVID-19.

I'd like to take this time to highlight some of the school's work during the closure.

- Teachers turned out initial education and art packets by the Tuesday after closure
- Teachers and staff got online and started contacting families immediately in week one
- Lesson planning shifted with each new announcement (never missing a beat)
- Music and Art websites were built
- Custodians began an immediate deep cleaning
- 515 computers were distributed to families
- Nearly 100 hotspots went to families without internet access
- Headphones began to be distributed
- Books were donated and distributed
- 4,000+ meals (breakfast and lunch) have been distributed
- 1500 families a month have been visiting the Mercado El Sol
- Soon 150 dinners a week will be provided to families that apply and qualify for the program
- An emergency fund is in development for those families with significant challenges
- Applications for the Alumni scholarships from the El Sol Foundation are out now!

I understand this is not the school year that anyone had hoped for, and the pandemic is affecting us all in various ways. At the same time, I continue to marvel at the resilience, creativity and commitment of our students, teachers, staff and community as they meet these challenges with strength and grace. Please always reach out to us if you have questions, concerns or are in need, we are your partner and more important, family.

Thanks again for your continued support of the entire El Sol community. Wishing you continued health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Monique Daviss  
Executive Director  
El Sol Academy