

July 21, 2020

Dear Webb Community,

We are writing today to provide additional information regarding the start of the 2020-21 academic year. In our recent communication, we indicated an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Southern California, and unfortunately that upward trend has continued. After careful review of public health trends in Southern California, and in consultation with our Medical Advisory Board and Board of Trustees, we have decided to begin the school year online. Our decision is influenced by our commitment to the continued good health and wellbeing of Webb students, faculty, staff and their families.

Factors that influenced our decision:

- 1) Southern California continues to experience a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations through July. A reversal of these trends is not anticipated for a number of weeks.
- 2) This steep rise in new cases and hospitalizations in Southern California has led to a reduction in COVID-19 testing capabilities and stretched thin regional medical resources for the treatment of this illness and others.
- 3) Los Angeles County, and our surrounding Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, remain on Governor Newsom's watch list for high cases. State officials and local public health agencies require schools in those counties to be online until they have been off the watch list for at least fourteen days.

Please note our decision impacts the start of time module one only. We are fully planning for in-person learning at the beginning of time module two (starting Oct. 26). We believe public health conditions will improve over the course of the early fall, allowing Webb to return to on-campus programs for both boarding and day students. We will inform you of our final plans for time module two no later than September 21.

Please find here our [Health & Safety Protocols](#). In this document, we outline our plans for modifications to campus operations that will enable us to resume on-campus learning. These protocols are thorough and will be updated as new health information becomes available.

In the meantime, we are excited and prepared to offer all of our students a Webb-caliber program and experience online for time module one. We have completed our transition to our new learning management system (Canvas), which will enhance our online program for the fall. Our personalized learning plan coordinators will be working with each student and family to support their educational goals. You can find further details about our full academic program for 2020-21 in our [New Hybrid Educational Model Program](#).

We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has agreed to rescind its July 6 guidance - again allowing international students to take classes online and maintain their visa status. For F-1 Visa/I-20 students, please complete the international student section in the questionnaire explained below so that your DSO can follow up with you as needed.

Next steps for families:

1) Fill out a questionnaire for time module one on webb.myschoolapp.com by

Wednesday, July 27. Parents should log in and fill this out with their students.

Students will be contacted in early August by their personal learning plan coordinators to begin work on their academic and co-curricular programs for the new academic year. Coordinators will work with students to identify learning goals, assist in navigating Webb offerings, and provide connections to local resources. Your answers in this questionnaire will help guide our work.

2) Join us for our July 29 webinar from 6:00 to 7:00 pm PT (registration link to follow). These school leaders will be on-hand to answer questions:

Jamila Everett, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, PDSO

Janet Peddy, Director of Finance, Planning and Operations

Theresa Smith, Associate Head of Schools

Taylor Stockdale, Head of Schools

We look forward to sharing updates throughout July and August. Please continue to reach out to us with your questions and concerns. While this global crisis poses an unprecedented set of challenges, we are confident in our community's resolve. We will draw on our collective strength and nearly 100-year history to meet the challenges ahead.

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Upcoming Dates:

July 29 – Start-of-School Updates and Q&A Webinar, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm PT

August 3 – Orientation Plans and Additional Academic Program Information posted

August 5 – College Planning Webinar with Dean of College Guidance Hector Martinez and Associate Head of Schools Theresa Smith, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm PT

August 7 – Advisors and Personalized Learning Plan Coordinators contact students and families

August 12 – Academic and Co-Curricular Program Webinar with Associate Head of Schools Theresa Smith and members of the Educational Leadership Team, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm PT