



May 8, 2020

Dear Winston School Parents and Guardians:

As our state and city begin to reopen, I hope you and your families are healthy and enjoying more time outside given our beautiful San Diego weather with more access to our beaches and parks! I know my children and I enjoy taking daily strolls through our neighborhood to get some exercise and fresh air.

I would like to provide you with an update on The Winston School's plans for the current school year, summer school, and the new school year 2020-2021. The Winston School is following the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) guideline to resume school operations.

#### **CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020**

We will continue to follow the academic calendar. It is hard to imagine the last day of the current school year is only weeks away, June 12, 2020. The school will continue to provide academic instruction through a distance learning model. Additional information on the items below will be provided as details are finalized:

- The Winston School Board of Directors met on May 4, 2020, to finalize school operational plans.
- **Middle School Graduation** is being planned and organized by Riley Alvord, Dean of Students, and Jay Forester, Middle School Teacher.
- **High School Graduation** is being planned by our Graduation Committee. As stay-at-home public orders are lifted particularly as it pertains to schools, we are planning a ceremony for the senior class and their families. Please look forward to receiving a "Hold the Date" announcement in the coming weeks. The ceremony will be an outdoor, social distancing-aware, event at the Del Mar Shores Park with limitations on the number of family members and Winston staff allowed to attend in person. A recorded and live video stream of the ceremony will be provided to those unable to attend in person. I am looking forward to personally delivering the seniors caps and gowns, lawn signs, and a gift from Sol Ramirez's mom, Julie Abrams. This will be scheduled soon.
- **School Awards Ceremonies** will be held virtually tentatively the week of June 8.
- **SDCOE Guidelines:** For the remaining 2019-20 school year, conditions are not likely to improve quickly enough to allow schools to resume normal (pre-pandemic) operations or modified operations. It is unlikely that traditional graduation ceremonies and promotion

assemblies will be allowed this summer. Even if permissible, convening large groups during this time frame may still be inadvisable.

### SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

- **First Day of Summer School is Wednesday, June 24, 2020.**
- **Public Students:** The current plan is to provide summer school through a distance learning model. Students that are enrolled at The Winston School through their public school district, as indicated in their IEP, will attend summer school and will automatically be enrolled unless we hear otherwise from the parent. A letter was emailed earlier today from Lizette Cardenas.
- **Private Students:** Please be on the lookout for communication being sent next week. If you are interested in having your student(s) enrolled in summer school 2020, please follow the instructions provided in the communication.

### NEW SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

- **First Day of School is Monday, August 31, 2020.**
- Academic instruction to be provided in a blended learning model that will include on-site and distance learning.
- **SDCOE Guidelines:** When stay-at-home orders are lifted and schools are permitted to reopen, operations will likely need to be modified until schools resume *normal* operations. Easing of restrictions is likely to be stepped down in phases. Modifications may include:
  - Limiting group sizes
  - Proactive screening of students, staff, and visitors for symptoms
  - Social distancing in all settings
- **SDCOE Guidelines:** It will be safe for schools to return to *normal* operations when all of the following have occurred:
  - The California stay-at-home order has been lifted.
  - The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the county has remained constant or declined for 28 consecutive days.
  - The directive to physically distance has been removed.
  - Restrictions on group gatherings have been lifted.

### SCHOOL SAFETY

The safety of our students, staff, families and the surrounding community is always our highest priority. With that in mind, we are working on the following school improvement projects:

- A proposal to the City of Del Mar for a secure and permanent school perimeter fence has been submitted.
- A **\$5 million** school-wide renovation proposal to include:
  - Security fencing

- Remodel of buildings and ventilation systems
- Renovation of and additional bathrooms, including hot water plumbing improvements
- Hand washing and sanitizing stations

I continue to be impressed by the engagement of our teachers, students, and parents as The Winston School continues our distance learning educational delivery. I feel confident that our students are getting the best education possible under the current circumstances and that they will be prepared for the next school year and beyond. I will continue to share weekly communication updates as they develop.

Thank you for all the support you have given to our teachers and your children to make the best of our current situation. I know we all look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

**Lastly, I wish all of our mothers a very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday!**

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dena Harris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Dena Harris

Head of School & Executive Director