



April 3, 2020

Dear KSD Community,

We want to express our sincere appreciation for your extraordinary patience, support, and flexibility as we navigate together through this truly unprecedented time in our schools and lives.

Governor Gavin Newsom reminded us in his April 1st COVID-19 press conference that “Schools are closed, but classes are in.” Here in the Kentfield School District, our teachers, staff, and administrators answered that call weeks ago and have been working tirelessly to transform our exceptional TK-8 educational program into a distance learning model accessible to all of our students, which is no easy feat.

It is particularly impressive since there was no blueprint to prepare our teachers and staff for this moment. There were no existing district-wide distance learning teaching plans nor technology practiced between our students and teachers to enable a seamless transition to this new reality. In simple and profound ways, this has been a massive transformation in our schools for us all.

At this time of great uncertainty and change, our primary goal as a KSD Board is to ensure that necessary policies and structures are in place so that all of our students are able to successfully access the [district's distance learning opportunities](https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/) (<https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/>) and thrive academically and emotionally. We are particularly concerned about our most vulnerable students since we worry that an extended period of distance learning could exacerbate academic inequities and widen the achievement gap in our district. With this equity lens top of mind, we remain committed to the goals of our new [district strategic plan](https://www.kentfieldschools.org/about-us/strategic-plan/) (<https://www.kentfieldschools.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>), and will continue to use these goals to prioritize our board and district work.

We acknowledge that the rapid implementation of district-wide distance learning for a TK-8 district may have been challenging and frustrating at times. As parents of school aged kids, we deeply empathize with those feelings since we are also trying to adjust to distance learning within our own households.

We urge you to remember that we are all in this together (students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators). Our entire community is feeling overwhelmed and each of us is trying to do the best we can in this new COVID-19 world. As we head into Spring Break, we encourage everyone to have compassion and patience with each other and use this unique historical moment in our lives to forge deeper community connections and look for creative ways to support one another however we can.

Finally, if you and your child(ren) are not already tuning into the weekly [Bacich Broadcasts](https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/post/) (<https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/post/>) and the daily [Kent Squawk Talk episodes](https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/post/) (<https://distance.kentfieldschools.org/post/>), they are a fun and important way to stay connected with our amazing teachers and staff. Also, you are always invited to attend any of our [board meetings](https://kentfield.agendaonline.net/public/) (<https://kentfield.agendaonline.net/public/>). We recently started [recording our board meetings](https://www.kentfieldschools.org/school-board/board-meeting-highlights-archive/) and have had several recent special board meetings with COVID-19 updates. Reading our [Board Meeting Highlights](https://www.kentfieldschools.org/school-board/board-meeting-highlights-archive/) (<https://www.kentfieldschools.org/school-board/board-meeting-highlights-archive/>) is another efficient way to stay in the loop of what is happening in the district if you cannot make our monthly meetings.

If you have any questions or comments about any of these topics, please feel free to contact our Board President, Heather McPhail Sridharan, at hmcpailsridharan@kentfieldschools.org or our Superintendent Liz Schott at lschott@kentfieldschools.org. Feedback is always welcome and valued.

With gratitude,

Davina Goldwasser
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