Dear Yu Ming Families,

At Yu Ming, we know that community matters most, and it is our community that keeps us going, especially when we must navigate uncharted waters. During the past five days teachers, staff, administrators, and parent volunteers have stepped up, together working tirelessly to ensure our students continue to be served during this unprecedented school closure.

That is why I will always think of this moment not just as one of necessary physical social distancing, but also as one of social connection and collective care, when we practiced our Community Commitments. While “keeping ourselves and others safe” we are “leaving no community member behind.”

Distance Learning for Yu Ming students begins tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18 at 8:30am. As we transition to a different way of “doing” school, we hope to provide a meaningful learning experience while helping students to feel connected to others. While distance learning can not replace the rich context and face-to-face interactions of a classroom experience, Yu Ming teachers will work to create opportunities for regular connection and community. You will also see that the suggested Weekly Schedules leave plenty of time for students to be off screens to create art, make music, dance, cook a simple meal, complete a puzzle, play a board game, or commit an act of kindness.

To help your child prepare for tomorrow, please print hard copies today of the Yu Ming Distance Learning Guide and the Student Learning Page for your child’s class linked in the Guide, and review both with your child. Your child’s teacher (GK-5) or advisor (G6-8) will be contacting you to ensure you understand how to begin distance learning tomorrow. A member of the Student Support Team will also call families with a student with an IEP or 504 plan.

In addition, please ensure your child has all of the following today so that they are ready for Distance Learning to begin tomorrow:
- Wi-Fi access with Internet
- Personal laptop or Chromebook with a camera compatible with Zoom (G2-8)
- Headphone with microphone
- Printed hard copy of their Student Learning Page linked in the Distance Learning Guide

Families who have arranged to pick-up these items from the school, please come to the Upper School Campus (675 41st St. Oakland) between 1-5pm today, March 17.

The Alameda County public order that orders nearly all Bay Area residents to shelter in place for the next three weeks does not include “Essential Businesses” like schools “provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained.” So families may pick up these materials today. In addition, families may still go to the OUSD designated meal distribution sites on the next scheduled food service day, Thursday, March 19.

The Alameda County Public Health Department will be posting Frequently Asked Questions about the public order and other updates on their COVID-19 webpage. Any school questions can be directed to ymclosure@yumingschool.org or (510) 326-1048.
Whether connected virtually or in-person, we are stronger together. Let’s continue to lift each other up and lean on each other for support and comfort in the days ahead.

In community,

Sue Park
Head of School