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Updates on Distance Learning and School Closure Extended Through April 10: March 19, 2020

Sue Park • 3 months ago • Thursday, Mar 19 at 4:14 PM • **Yu Ming Charter School**

Dear Yu Ming Families,

I hope that you are staying safe and healthy. Yesterday was the first day of Yu Ming Distance Learning, and the joy our students felt in being able to re-connect with dear friends and teachers was evident as we popped in to zoom classrooms. Thank you all for working with our team to support your child to continue their learning during this time of challenge and uncertainty.

I was moved by the resiliency and care I witnessed in our virtual classrooms and spaces yesterday when 100% of our students either joined their online classes or had a personal connection with a Yu Ming staff member. It is clear that we are still very much in community, with and for each other. Here are just a few of the many highlights:

- Elephant students and Wang Laoshi started class with a Circle Check-In and discussion of their Commitments to each other during distance learning;
- Ms. Leong led a small group discussion of how poetry is different from other writing because it has fewer grammatical rules and more emotional impact;
- Phoenix students joined an interactive math talk with Xu Laoshi about “making 24”;
- All Tiger students were on time for their Google Hangout lessons and one was overheard saying how much they loved the homework :)!
- Ms. Mitchell read aloud from a chapter book to second graders who made predictions and connections, and discussed story elements;
- Ms. Harris asked art class students to create a poster with images and words of encouragement for their neighbors and community inspired by Italian school children. Some of these posters are attached at the end of my message .

Yu Ming School Closure Extended to April 10

Given Alameda County’s “shelter in place” order (effective March 17 to April 7) and with guidance from our Yu Ming Board of Directors who met this morning, **Yu Ming will extend our school closure through April 10, and April 6-10 will remain as our Spring Break.** Our understanding of the broader challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to shift and evolve daily, and we will continue to adjust our school operations as needed and provide updates to you as soon as new official guidance is released.

Distance learning will continue for a third week through April 3 with Spring Break following on April 6-10. Yu Ming’s Distance Learning Plan was designed with a short term closure in mind, but we are now beginning the work of preparing for a potentially longer school closure. If our distance learning continues after Spring Break, our planning for educational delivery will consider the amount of time we may be away from the Yu Ming campus, reflection on lessons learned from our first phase, and response to the needs of our students and community.

During our school closure, if you need support please do not hesitate to reach out. Here are important contacts and resources that are also included in our **[Distance Learning Guide](#)**.

Role	Availability & Contact Information
Main Office	The Lower School (K-2) Campus and the Upper School (G3-8) Campus will be closed. However, you may contact the school with general questions during the school closure from 8:30-4:00 on (510) 326-1048 ymclosure@yumingschool.org . Please be sure to email your child's teacher or advisor if your student is absent for the day or will miss a specific distance learning session, so that teachers are not expecting students to be online for classes. Students are expected to participate in school activities during each day of school closure. Attendance will be taken for each distance learning session and one-on-one conferences.
Attendance	Mellisa Jew (mjew@yumingschool.org) and Wenting Wang (wwang@yumingschool.org), Assistant Principals will be available from 8:30-4:00, if students are having difficulty making the transition to distance learning.
Distance Learning	The Technology Support Hotline will be accessible Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:00pm (tech@yumingschool.org , 510-220-7982)
Technology	Crystal Simmons (csimmons@yumingschool.org) will be available from 8:30-4:00 to address any concerns regarding provision of services for students receiving special education services through an IEP and accommodations through a 504 plan. She will also be available to discuss any concerns regarding socioemotional support for ALL students.
Special Education, 504 Plan, & Socioemotional Support Services	Andrea Siu (asiu@yumingschool.org), Enrollment and Compliance Manager, will be available to answer questions about registration, records, and enrollment.
Enrollment	Cindy Liu (cliu@yumingschool.org), Director of Operations and Strategy, will be available to answer questions related to school operations.
Operations Office	

If you need any additional printed packets for this week or next week, please inform your student's teacher or advisor so packets can be **prepared for pick-up tomorrow Friday, March 19, 12:00-5:00pm** outside the main office school entrance at our Upper School Campus (675 41st St. Oakland).

In closing, I want to share a conversation overheard in Chinese class between Grade 4 students and their teacher.

Student: Every day when you wake up, will you tell us what to do?

Teacher: Yes. I will always be here.

Our team will continue to be here for each of you and our Yu Ming community.

With gratitude,



Sue Park
Head of School

