

Subject: Welcome to Yu Ming's New School Year

Dear Families,

We look forward to welcoming you all back to Yu Ming and opening our virtual doors to the 2020-2021 school year, one that is already proving to be different from any years prior and will challenge us all to be creative, adaptive and resilient. As Yu Ming continues to navigate the impact of COVID-19, we remain committed to supporting our students' well-being and academic growth. We have designed a virtual distance learning model to serve our students at the start of the school year and a hybrid learning model which will be a combination of on-campus learning and at-home learning. Our hybrid learning model will be implemented once we are able to open our doors to students under state and county guidance. Both models strive to reflect our four model pillars (Academic Excellence, Mandarin Immersion Leadership, Whole Child Education, Diverse Equitable Inclusive Community) and replicate the anchors of our classroom-based model which is relationship-driven and personalized.

Faculty and Staff Returned to Yu Ming Today for Training and Learning

Today was the first day of our two week staff professional development, and we welcomed 70 Yu Ming staff members to the new school year, practicing many of the engagement, discussion, relationship-building, community connection, and digital learning strategies we will be using to support our students when Yu Ming opens. We are excited to introduce our 2020-2021 team of enthusiastic, determined, and caring teachers to you this Friday, August 7 when we share classroom assignments.

Yu Ming will open on Monday, August 17 virtually with 100% distance learning

As of today, the Alameda County Department of Public Health has still not given permission to schools to reopen campuses and that permission is not anticipated before our first day of school, Monday August 17. As a result we continue to plan for a virtual school opening with our Distance Learning model. As I shared in [my July 24 communication](#) we will not be able to open school with our Hybrid Model until Alameda County is off the state COVID-19 monitoring list and our Yu Ming Board of Directors, together with school leadership, have determined all the necessary conditions for reopening are in place. Any possibility of reopening will likely not happen before Labor Day. Until the COVID-19 pandemic is fully contained, we must be prepared to operate flexibly and in a manner that is responsible and responsive to public health conditions and requirements.

Eventually, when we are able to open our Lower School and Upper School campuses, we plan to be open with a hybrid model that is rich, engaging, and nurturing for children while also being safe. The hybrid model allows for decreased density and sufficient social distancing. Yu Ming's hybrid model divides a week among consecutive days of on-campus, in-person learning and a number of distance learning days. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be divided into smaller cohorts of 12-15 students (e.g. Koala A and B) and will likely be on-campus 4 days (Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday) and at-home 1 day (Wednesday). Our grade 2-8 students will be on-campus 2 days a week and at home 3 days a week.

Some Features of Yu Ming's Distance Learning Model

Together with our teaching team, we will be finalizing the details of our Distance Learning plan and schedules and share those with you by next week. In the meantime, I am pleased to share some features you can expect for your student's experience this fall:

- **The Learning Day**
 - A structured and guided school day from about 8:30-2:30 (K-1), 8:30-3:00 (G2-5), and 8:30-3:15 (G6-8)
 - Easy to follow schedule designed for maximum student independence in navigating the school day including for our youngest students
 - Daily live/synchronous whole-group and small-group instruction with teachers and independent asynchronous assignments or projects
 - Daily social emotional connections through community meetings, advisories, Compass circles and badgework, and friendship groups for our youngest students
 - Weekly enrichment classes in art, music, and PE
 - New Distance Learning Portal linked to simple, student-friendly grade level and class landing pages
 - Secure single sign in for google classroom, zoom, learning applications, etc. replacing the multiple log-ins of the spring
- **Options for Additional Learning or Other Supports**
 - The school will continue to provide customized supports and provide options for students who have additional learning or other needs
 - Special Education services and assessments, IEP meetings, and behavior intervention supports will continue during distance learning
 - Additional one-on-one support may be provided depending on learner need and grade level with staffing that may include Teachers, Distance Learning Assistants, or other Student Support Team members.
 - Yu Ming will continue to ensure 100% of students have internet, devices, school supplies and other supplies (i.e. art supplies) for distance learning
 - Faculty will continue to participate in regular professional learning, coaching, collaborative planning, and community and well-being connections through circles.

Until we can return to "normal," we believe our distance learning model and eventually our hybrid model will be the best possible plan for supporting scholar learning, wellbeing, and safety. While the future is unknown, we are committed to doing everything possible to put our students first in the year to come.

School Supplies Lists for 2020-2021

At the start of each school year, we provide a list of suggested supplies that students will need to engage in learning. Usually students bring these supplies to their classrooms. This year, students will need these supplies for individual use as they engage in distance learning from home. The school will provide all items on the lists to students that qualify for Free & Reduced Priced Meals and they can be

picked up during our designated Materials Pick Up Days (Aug 13-14). Families who do not qualify for FRPM may opt to purchase pre-ordered and pre-assembled school supply kits from the school. If you would like to order them please sign up on [this form](#) by this Thursday, Aug. 6.

- [Kindergarten School Supplies List](#)
- [G1-2 School Supplies List](#)
- [G3-5 School Supplies List](#)
- [G6-8 School Supplies List](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

- **Thurs, Aug 6, 4-5pm** - FSO Co-Chair hosted zoom meeting to discuss and brainstorm pandemic social support. [Zoom link](#), Meeting ID: 711 247 8868, Passcode: ymfso1.
- **Fri, Aug 7** - Class and cohort assignments sent to families
- **Thurs, Aug 13, 5-6pm** - Parent meeting for questions and conversation with Head of School Sue Park and Principal Greg Callaham. [Zoom link](#), Meeting ID: 975 1460 1487, Passcode: YMFamily
- **Thurs-Fri, Aug 13-14** - Materials pick up including books, technology, school supplies by appointment (school staff to notify)
- **Mon, Aug 17** - First Day of School (schedules and learning pages distributed next week)
- **Aug 17-21** - one-on-one Kinder Gentle Beginnings at Alcatraz campus by appointment (school staff to notify)

We are a community accustomed to the hard work of reinventing what is possible in schools and doing so while holding close our values of inclusion and care. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we worked this summer to develop a plan guided by the safety and well-being of our students and staff, our educational mission, and ensuring equity and quality. On behalf of our Yu Ming team that are now all back at school, we look forward to teaching, learning, and growing with you.

Warmest wishes,



Sue Park
Head of School

