January 20, 2021

Orchard Families,

It has been almost one year since we were able to greet you as you dropped your children off at Orchard School. Not seeing your children, our students, has made this past year feel exceptionally long. We really miss our families.

As you know, the COVID surge in California is still of great concern. Most schools throughout the Bay Area remain closed physically. Online instruction has become our new norm. As educators, we want schools to be open and, at the same time, we want our schools to be safe. Opening schools now is not safe and the safety of our staff and students is our top priority.

At this time, we do not have plans to re-open physically this year. As long as the COVID numbers are high, we will remain closed. Researchers have stated that California may not see lower COVID numbers until late April/early May. In the meantime, we are planning for a physical return, even if a physical return may not happen until August of 2021.

Much of our planning will focus on programs for next school year. We want to make sure we have systems and resources in place to provide students with social/emotional and academic supports upon return.

We want to thank all of you for collaborating with our staff to teach your children. We know it has not been easy. We look forward to the day when we can welcome all families back to the Orchard School campus.

Wendy Gudalewicz
Superintendent