

Dear Beitel Families-

This is another in a series of messages about our school reopening plans at Beitel. Today's message is about our "specials" classes: Art, Music, PE, and Library/Technology.

One of our primary strategies for keeping people safe and keeping schools open is to limit the amount of kids in contact with each adult and the amount of adults in contact with each student. Along with masks and social distancing, we believe we have a plan that creates a safe environment for reopening.

Students will have regular "specials" classes just as before. How we organize and implement these will be different. To start, these classes will happen in a student's homeroom space. Specialists will travel to kids rather than the other way around. When possible and appropriate, we'll be taking these classes outside. For example, early in the year PE will be primarily an outside operation as long as the weather allows. This also limits the number of spaces and the amount of others your student will potentially contact.

The other strategy we are using is a scheduling trick. Students will have the same amount of specials time each week, but with only some teachers. PE and Music will be working intensely with half of our classrooms for two weeks. Library/Technology and Art will be working intensely with the other half. After two weeks these specialties will switch groups. This allows us to limit the amount of adults working with kids and limit the amount of kids our specialists see in any given week. Beitel students will continue to have a guidance time with Mr. Mellizo weekly.

After sharing all of the things that we can't do, it's very nice to be able to share what we CAN do. Our specialists are excited to spend more focused time with the same groups of kids. This may very well be a scheduling idea that we keep post-Covid.

That being said, we do have a loss in our specialist world. In a typical year we begin offering band and orchestra instruction to fifth graders. We will not be doing so in any ACSD1 elementary school this year. These very specialized teachers will be working with smaller groups of students in middle and high school.

Sincerely,
Loren Engel
Beitel Elementary Principal