



## Toyon Elementary School

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August 7, 2020

Dear Toyon Families,

### **Welcome Back!**

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. I am so delighted that you are part of our amazing learning community. I welcome and value your positive energy and dedication to excellence in education, and I look forward to working with you and your children.

I know there are many unknowns as we start this new school year - this is certainly an unprecedented way to start a school year! But know this: the Toyon staff has been working tirelessly over the summer (on their own time!) to learn, collaborate, and prepare to make this the best year for your children. Our skilled and devoted teachers have been planning and preparing for distance learning with your child(ren). Our enthusiastic office team continues to register new families, ordering needed materials and updating student files. Our hard working and conscientious custodians have spent the entire summer thoroughly cleaning the facility for our eventual return to brick and mortar school. And, our much-appreciated PTA is gearing up to welcome families, provide volunteer opportunities, and offer other exciting events and programs. There is no group of people more dedicated, caring, or more talented than the group of staff who serve the Toyon community. I know we are going to have a great year!

Here are some of the knowns as we jump into the year:

Based on the guidelines from the Santa Clara County Health Department and the continuing rise of COVID-19 cases in our county, everyone, including BUSD will begin the school year in a full distance learning model. Distance learning will incorporate interaction with students and will provide a comprehensive curriculum through grade-level comprehensive learning plans to ensure educational consistency for all students. Senate Bill 98 requires the following for Distance Learning:

- Daily Live Interaction
- Student Attendance
- Daily Instructional Minutes
- Serving Students with Special Needs
- Preventing Student Disengagement
- Ensuring Families Connectivity
- Weekly Engagement Records
- Accountability Plans

Learning is important to us at Toyon. It is up to all of us to provide an environment where our students feel welcome and safe, especially as we move to distance learning. As we continue implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this year, your teachers and I will discuss our Core Values of Being Safe, Being Respectful, and Being Responsible with the students. Please support us at home by having focused conversations with your child about what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible, both while in class and during virtual lessons, and especially while working independently on their devices. It is our goal for every child to feel safe and play a leadership role in our Toyon community.

I would like to invite you to become active in our school community. There are various opportunities for you to volunteer or contribute to the Toyon community. Some ways you can become involved are:

- Help with PTA events
- Participate in School Site Council, PTA meetings, Virtual Coffee with the Principal, and other virtual meetings offered throughout the school year
- Become a Virtual Classroom Parent
- Attend virtual classroom presentations or Gallery Walks

All of us at Toyon Elementary School are eager and excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year. This year is going to be amazing as we continue to provide academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant, and help them build relationships while making real-world connections. As your principal, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors (virtually)- teachers, students, and parents- are excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, fun, and nurturing environment.

**New Staff**

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions and changes to our staff. We are delighted to welcome the PK team from Cherrywood Elementary School to Toyon Elementary School. They each bring a solid skill set and enthusiasm to teaching and meeting children’s needs. We look forward to welcoming the team and their students to Toyon!

**Start of School**

School starts Monday, August 17th. You will receive a message from your child’s teacher no later than Friday, August 14th with information on how to login to online classes for the first day of school.

The school will be providing technology to students who need it. We recommend that every child have access to their own device (that can connect to the internet and video calls). If you need a Chromebook for one or more child, please take this survey by Tuesday, August 11th. [Toyon Distance Learning Readiness Survey](#) All surveys completed by 10 am Tuesday, August 11th are guaranteed to have a Chromebook available for student pick up on August 13th or 14th. Surveys completed after 10 am August 11th will have a Chromebook ready sometime the next week. If you need or have internet connectivity issues, please fill out this district survey. [Digital Learning Parent](#)

Toyon will be sending home back to school supply kits and curriculum on Thursday, August 13th and Friday, August 14th. Please see the schedule below:

**Back to School Drive Through Supply Pick Up Schedule**

<b><u>Thursday, August 13th</u></b>	<b><u>Friday, August 14th</u></b>
<b><u>Grades 4th/5th</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last Names Begin With A-L 9:00-9:30 am</li> <li>• Last Names Begin With M-Z 9:30-10:00 am</li> </ul>	<b><u>Grades PK/TK/K</u></b> Last Names Begin With A-L 9:00-9:30 am Last Names Begin With M-Z 9:30-10:00 am
<b><u>Grades 1st/2nd/3rd</u></b> Last Names Begin With A-L 10:30-11:00 am Last Names Begin With M-Z 11:00-11:30 am	<b><u>Make-Ups (if you were not able to come during your scheduled time):</u></b> Last Names Begin With A-L 10:30-11:00 am Last Names Begin With M-Z 11:00-11:30 am

## **Student Placement**

Careful consideration was given to placing each student into classes with input from staff as well as student learning styles. Classrooms have been balanced academically and socially. Our classes are structured to provide equitable class sizes at each grade level. Moving students is difficult without causing imbalances and inequities.

Thank you so much for being positive with your child and helping him or her understand that it is impossible to place all students with a preferred best friend or teacher. ALL of our staff works hard to make school a positive experience for ALL students. Toyon Elementary is eagerly looking forward to enriching your child's life. Thank you for understanding that it can take a few weeks for a child to acclimate to a new grade, peer group and teacher.

Because of the county's social distancing protocols, this year we will be sharing our class lists differently. You will be receiving an email from your child's teacher welcoming your child to their class. We will NOT be having class lists posted at the school site. We will also be sharing a schedule of curriculum and supply pick up via email soon.

The office is 9:00 am -2:00 pm via phone call, Zoom, or limited in person appointments. Please call the office at 408-923-1965 to schedule appointments.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista Castillou". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Castillou, Principal  
Toyon Elementary School