

SCHOOL OUTSIDE

safe joyful connected equitable

January 22, 2021

Letter re: Draft Proposal for School Outside at Jefferson Elementary

Dear Community,

As you may be aware, a parent-led group at Jefferson Elementary School has been advocating for “School Outside” as a safe and equitable solution to the challenges posed by the pandemic and distance learning. Like most people, we are concerned about COVID-19 and distance learning alike. Both have significant health and safety impacts that need to be addressed.

Since June 2020, when our group formed, we have communicated with a wide range of stakeholders, including families, teachers, administrators, city leaders, and SFUSD Board of Education and personnel, to assess the feasibility of holding school outdoors. Inspired and excited about the benefits of an outdoor option, we did surveys and other outreach efforts at Jefferson and have drafted a proposal to hold school outside in its school yard.

We recognize families may have personal conditions or circumstances that impact their comfort in returning to school, inside or out. Different school communities may also have different levels of comfort with returning to school, inside or out. Survey results from Jefferson families indicated a majority were more comfortable returning to school outside than inside, so we have been working toward this plan. For school communities interested in exploring outdoor options, we hope sharing our plan for School Outside is helpful in your thinking and planning. To see the plan, please go to: <https://www.takeschooloutside.com>.

Please keep in mind that the plan is a draft and is still in the development stage--it has been evolving and will continue to do so. We have obtained initial review and input from Jefferson's principal and have begun the process of obtaining feedback from the broader Jefferson community. We will present the draft at a special PTA meeting next week. We also plan to translate the plan into Spanish and Chinese and will continue to seek input from the Jefferson community via other forums such as small-group sessions. We will update the plan as we go!

Sincerely,

Jefferson “School Outside” team