

SCHOOL OUTSIDE!

safe

joyful

connected

equitable



THOMAS KUOH PHOTOGRAPHY

Jefferson Elementary School
Phase 1, In-Person, DRAFT School Outside Concept Plan

v.2

Note to Readers

This draft plan represents an effort by volunteer parents and teachers to bring our kids back to school outside so that they can benefit from all of the many positive aspects of in-person, outdoor instruction while protecting the health of students, teachers, administrators, families, and our community at large. This plan recognizes that the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is planning for reopening in 2021 but that there is still uncertainty about the timing, methods, and resources needed.

To create the plan, the team reviewed SFUSD’s reopening materials and surveys, public health literature on the rate of COVID-19 transmission outdoors compared to indoors, and San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) guidance on school reopening.

We also reached out to Jefferson families with an online survey about their levels of comfort returning inside and outside, held an outdoor planning session open to all Jefferson parents, and sought input from parents via PTA meetings and other forums.

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INTRODUCTION

The State of California, the City of San Francisco, and the San Francisco Unified School District have committed to a data-driven approach to reopening that will protect public health. This plan honors that approach by acknowledging three basic facts:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, being outside is significantly safer than being inside.
- Distance learning is taking an academic, financial, and emotional toll on students, families, teachers, and administrators.
- In-person instruction is preferred to remote learning in terms of academics, social/emotional development, and personal fulfillment for students and teachers.

When we take these pieces of data together, a pragmatic solution appears: **Hold school outside!**

In addition to the primary benefits of holding school outside--namely, superior protection of public health and delivery of in-person instruction--outdoor education offers many co-benefits both during and beyond the COVID era. For example:

- Holding school outside significantly increases the space available to bring students back to school safely.
- School outside reduces the burden on custodial staff and acknowledges emerging data that the primary way to protect people from COVID is not by cleaning surfaces but by preventing large indoor gatherings.
- School outside will deliver academic, social, emotional, and physical benefits to students and teachers by providing a healthy and positive environment with visual and sometimes physical access to neighborhood nature.
- More students will have access to the refuge and food security that school provides. School staff will be able to assess student health and well-being in person.

This draft plan represents Phase 1 for Jefferson, which includes all K, 1st, and 2nd grade classes, including SDC students. We intend to follow up with additional plans to bring older students back to school outside as well. To complete this and subsequent plans, we will seek additional input from parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to incorporate their ideas.

DRIVER

In-person, outdoor education is safe, joyful, connected, and equitable. It allows our community to balance the health risks posed by COVID with the health and education risks posed by remote learning.

PHASE 1 GOAL

Ensure that kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and special day class (SDC) students have safe, outdoor, in-person instruction for 2 days each week for the full school day.

STRATEGIES

Identify outdoor classroom space (a “home base”) for stable cohorts on the Jefferson Elementary parcel.

Identify adjacent nature play for each home base.

Create a schedule that allows each cohort to learn, interact, eat, access restrooms and sinks, and play safely.

Articulate what students and teachers who opt out are doing at that time.

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY DATA

Grade	# of Classes	Students Per Class	Total # Students	# Cohorts Per Class	# Students Per Cohort	# of Cohorts
K	4	21	84	2	10-11	8
1st	4	21	84	2	10-11	8
2nd	4	21	84	2	10-11	8
K-2 SDC	1	13	13	1	13	1
Totals	13 classes		265 students			25

Table 1. Jefferson **total Phase 1** student numbers and cohorts

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY DATA

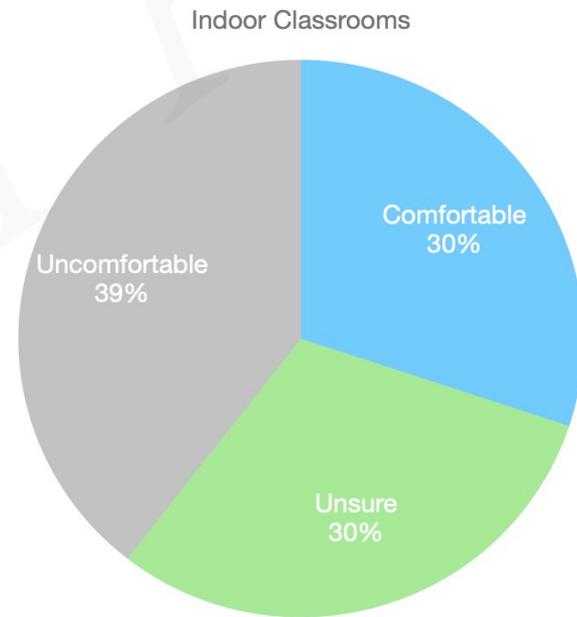
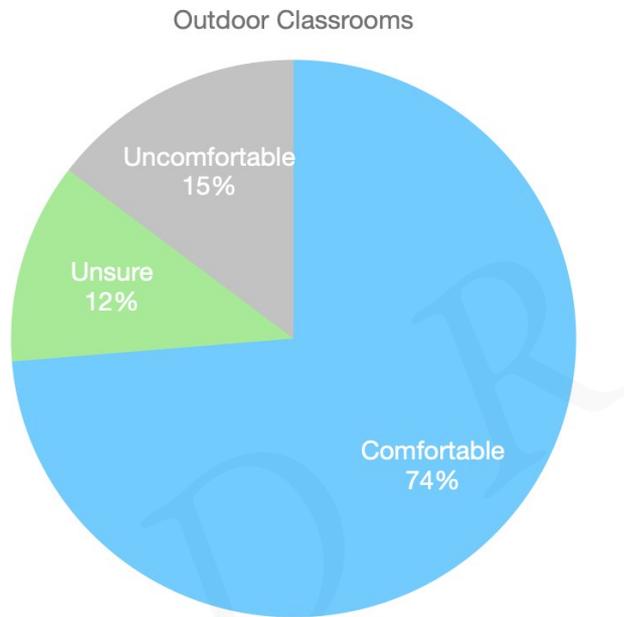
School Outside Survey Data Excerpt

Survey results illustrated the community's comfort level with returning to school outdoors (74%) versus returning to school indoors (30%).

266 responses from K-5 families

Collected Sept 15 - October 6, 2020

Sent in 3 Languages: English, Chinese, and Spanish



Location	Comfortable	Unsure	Uncomfortable
Indoor	80	81	105
Outdoor	196	31	39

**Percentages rounded up or down for simplified figures
Full survey results available upon request*

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY DATA

Grade	# of Classes	Students Per Class Likely to Opt In	Total # Students Likely to Opt In	# Cohorts Per Class	# Students Per Cohort	Likely # of Cohorts
K	4	15	60	1-2	10-11	6
1st	4	15	60	1-2	10-11	6
2nd	4	15	60	1-2	10-11	6
K-2 SDC	1	9	9	1	13	1
Totals	13 classes		189 students			19

Table 2. Jefferson **likely Phase 1** student numbers and cohorts based upon family survey (70% of families likely to “opt in”)

Pages 6 and 7 of this plan use survey data results to acknowledge that a portion of students may elect not to come back when school reopens. We thought it was important to record the data to inform our plan. However, to care for our entire community, the following slides are designed to accommodate every student in the K through 2 plus SDC phase.

SCHOOL OUTSIDE CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

Location	Sub-location	# of Cohorts	Benefits	Limitations	Grade Distribution
Jefferson	K yard	4	Shade/seating infrastructure, natural spatial divisions, self-contained	Limited in size	K (4 cohorts, 1 per class at a time) & possibly SDC
Jefferson	Middle Yard	1	Shade/seating infrastructure, variety of spaces for rotation, garden available	Narrow space with challenges for socially distanced circulation	1st (1 cohort, 1 per class at a time)
Jefferson	Upper Yard	7	Play structure, large space for play	Lack of “green” space/spatial variety for rotation	1st (3 cohorts, 1 per class at a time) 2nd (4 cohorts, 1 per class at a time) & possibly SDC

Table 3. Outside classroom sites and distribution of cohorts

Assumptions used to make this table:

1. *If cohorts are to be supervised by their classroom teachers, cohorts from the same class cannot be scheduled at the same time.*
2. *It's best to keep grades in one location where possible.*
3. *Some locations may be better suited to certain grade levels.*

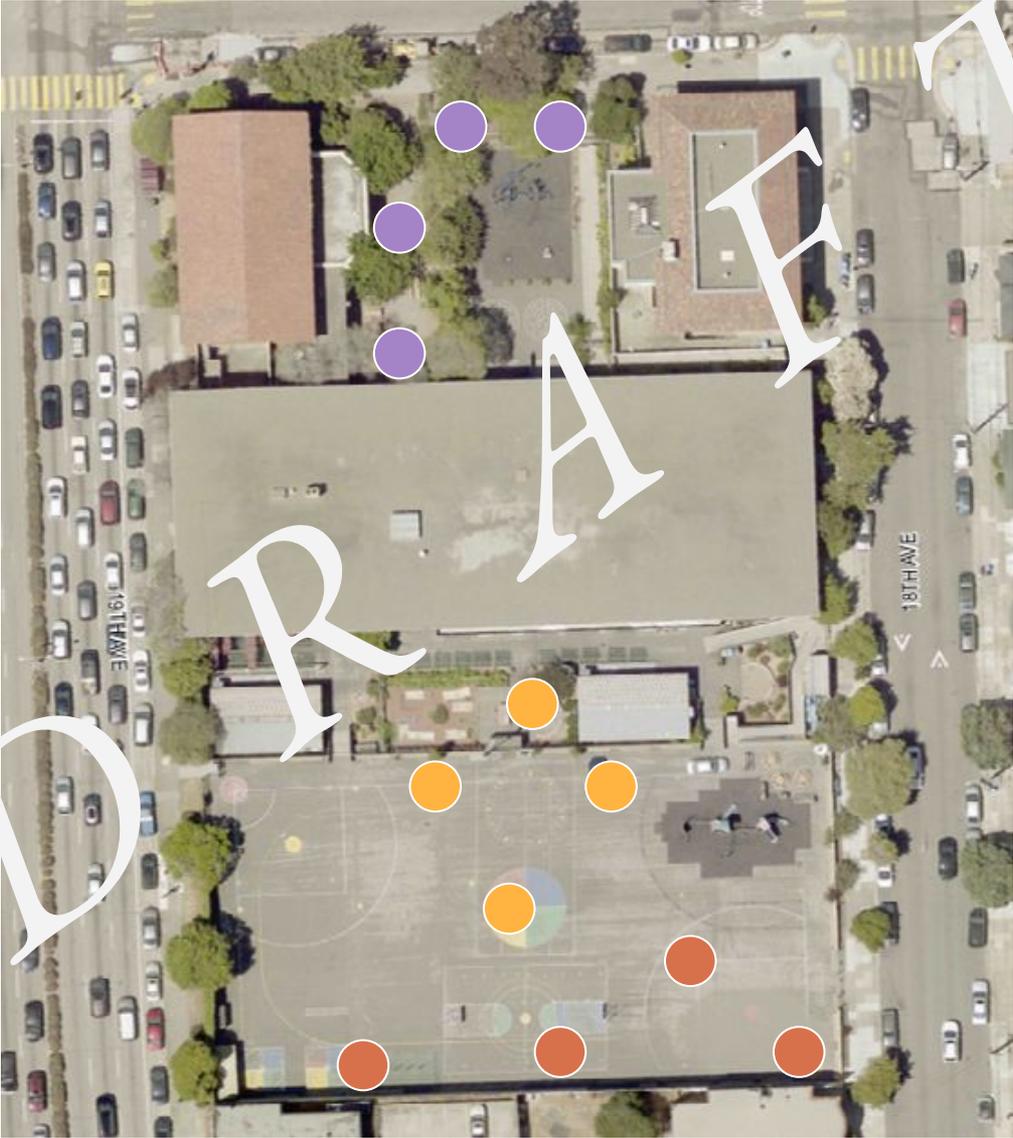
SCHOOL OUTSIDE SCHEDULE

	Cohorts represented by grade number per site per day				
Site	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jefferson K Yard	Ka (4 cohorts) SDC (1 cohort)	Ka (4 cohorts) SDC (1 cohort)	Remote learning and cleaning day except for SDC	Kb (4 cohorts) SDC (1 cohort)	Kb (4 cohorts) SDC (1 cohort)
Jefferson Middle Yard	1a (2 cohorts)	1a (2 cohorts)		1b (2 cohorts)	1b (2 cohorts)
Jefferson Upper Yard	1a (2 cohorts) 2a (4 cohorts)	1a (2 cohorts) 2a (4 cohorts)		1b (2 cohorts) 2b (4 cohorts)	1b (2 cohorts) 2b (4 cohorts)
Field Trip *					
Distance Learning	Kb (4 cohorts) 1b (4 cohorts) 2b (4 cohorts)	Kb (4 cohorts) 1b (4 cohorts) 2b (4 cohorts)		Ka (4 cohorts) 1a (4 cohorts) 2a (4 cohorts)	Ka (4 cohorts) 1a (4 cohorts) 2a (4 cohorts)

Table 4. Proposed schedule for Phase 1.

** For this table, field trip locations include the following sites, all reachable on foot from Jefferson Elementary: Mother's Meadow, Stow Lake hiking destinations, and the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Teachers who opt for regular field trips create additional space at Jefferson for others to use.*

SCHOOL OUTSIDE COHORT LOCATIONS



K Yard:
Kindergarten

Middle Yard:
1st Grade

Upper Yard:
1st & 2nd Grades

Locations for SDC students will be determined with input from SDC teachers

Recess and Lunch Schedules

Development of recess and lunch schedules will be explored in collaboration with Jefferson Administration and based on required hours, SFUSD Phase 1 return to in-person schedules, Student Nutrition Services, and SF Department of Public Health Guidance.



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HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN

The following Health Department documents are in progress, as well as a Health and Safety Plan for Jefferson designed for families.

SFDPH Guidance: K-12 in-person learning (Dec 10, 2020)

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/2020-33-Guidance-TK12-Schools.pdf>

SFDPH Directive: Schools (Dec 10, 2020)

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/files/Directive-2020-33-Schools.pdf>

Health and Safety Plan Checklist

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/covid-guidance/2020-26-HSP-Specialized-Support-Services.pdf>

AIR QUALITY & INCLEMENT WEATHER

San Francisco's mild, coastal climate makes outdoor learning possible year round. Mean average temperature, annually, is 51.3-62.7 degrees, and the coldest average temperatures and greatest rainfall occur December-February. The microclimate of the Inner Sunset means students and teachers may need layers and warm hats, not parkas and snow boots, nor shorts and sleeveless tops.

An AQI level of 100 or more would cancel in-person outdoor learning.



A forecast review would occur Wednesday for the following week. A 50% or greater chance of rain or high wind during instructional hours would cancel the in-person, outdoor school day.

There would be a minimum number of synchronous distance-learning hours with the remainder being asynchronous.

Pending SFUSD-determined policies

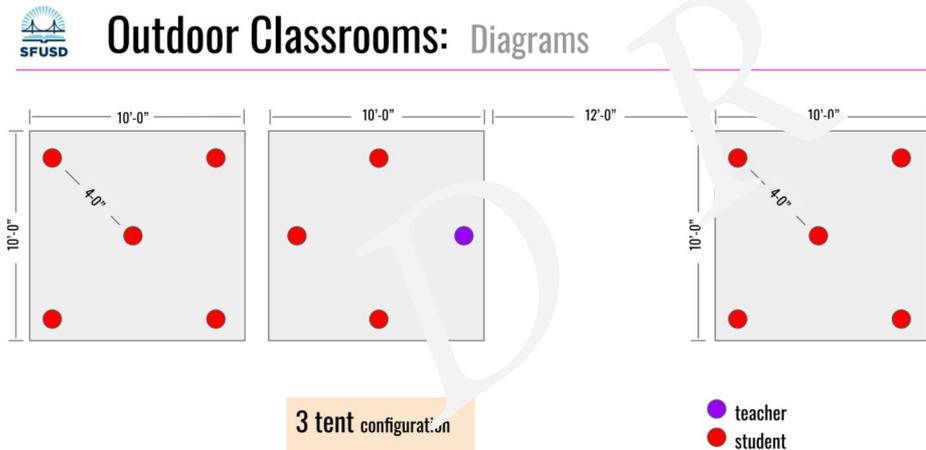
OUTDOOR INFRASTRUCTURE

SHELTER - SUN & LIGHT RAIN

Jefferson students have used an outdoor cafeteria for decades, eating outside in the range of SF/Inner Sunset temperatures, fog, and light rain.

Kindergarten Yard: 2-3 Classrooms with umbrellas, 1-2 Classrooms with 2-3-tent canopies (10'x10') for SDC and Kindergarten cohorts

Middle Yard: 1 classroom with umbrellas, providing shelter for 1 of 4 First grade cohorts



Upper Yard:

7, 3-tent Classrooms (10'x10' canopies) providing shelter for remaining 3 First grade cohorts and 4 Second grade cohorts

Seating, desks/tables, etc. to be determined following review of current classroom furniture and schoolyard assets.

SCHOOL OUTSIDE PLANNING PROCESS

As the negative impacts of distance learning became apparent, a group of parents at Jefferson Elementary School came together in June 2020 to brainstorm solutions. We were particularly troubled by the detrimental environment distance learning generated for most SFUSD elementary students and the inequitable impacts of distance learning on those who are already most vulnerable. The timeline below illustrates the process and notable milestones.

June 2020 -

- First team meeting
- Launched a [petition](#) on Change.org to hold school outside; the petition garnered more than 2,500 signatures

July-December 2020 -

- Developed School Outside Primer to help communicate the myriad benefits of outdoor learning to Jefferson Community
- Launched a website, www.takeschooloutside.com, as a means to share resources/outcomes with Jefferson Community and other schools
- Advocated for SFUSD to use outdoor space for instruction during SF Board of Education meetings and in meetings with local legislators
- Consulted with SFUSD staff to help inform planning
- Communicated and engaged with Jefferson PTA
- Gathered teacher input on willingness to teach outdoors
- Communicated with other parents and schools interested in implementing outdoor learning
- Obtained support from Nonprofit Administration Master's students at USF to develop a case study on our School Outside efforts
- Conducted a School Outside design workshop--an in-person, outdoor workshop to envision outdoor learning solutions for K-5
- Drafted a proposed School Outside plan for Jefferson

January 2021 & beyond -

- Selected for QTEA Innovation Award process to further develop and test plans for a \$25,000 implementation grant
- Shared and solicited feedback on draft plan with Jefferson principal
- Share draft plan at Jefferson PTA meeting and in smaller, multi-lingual presentations to and meetings with Jefferson Community
- Share draft plan with other interested parents and schools

FOR OTHER SCHOOL SITES

Resources:

[Green Schoolyards America COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Initiative](#)

School Community Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MWtFO8jQ0jFwCK5YBn650dcjgYjBd6oRaFIT3rNtW88/copy?urp=gmail_link&gxids=7628

Jefferson School Outside Website:

<https://www.takeschooloutside.com/>