



# Pacific Preschool Reopening Plan for 2020-21

**NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT APPLIES TO PRESCHOOL ONLY,  
NOT KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE**

Pacific School's K-6 [Distance Learning Plan](#)

Updated August 2, 2020

## Overview

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## OVERVIEW

Pacific Preschool will offer services in two formats: an **Onsite Preschool Group** serving a consistent cohort with a maximum of 12 students and a **Distance Learning Group** with no maximum size. Both the onsite and the distance-learning format will be available to both state-subsidized and tuition-paying families.

Preschool in both formats will be taught by our award-winning staff, who each have many years of experience working with young children:

- Stacey Reynolds, Preschool Teacher
- Julia Valle, Bilingual Aide
- Rosie Perez, Bilingual Aide

The onsite preschool group will meet **outside as much as possible**, taking advantage of the otherwise mostly empty Pacific School campus, including the preschool play area, the K-6 play structure, and the Life Lab gardens.

Onsite preschool will continue to meet from 8:30 to 12:30 as in the past. After care will be available for onsite families who want it from 12:30 to 2:40 for an extra fee (see below). Like preschool, after care will take place outside as much as possible, and will only be available to students in the onsite preschool cohort.

Preschool students in the distance-learning group will be offered daily pre-recorded videos and/or live online classes, frequent curriculum and tips by email, and bi-weekly curriculum packets including books, materials, supplies, songs, and more. (More details are below.)

Age-appropriate preschool students enrolled in either the Onsite or Distance-Learning group will have priority enrollment in Pacific Elementary School’s kindergarten.

**PRESCHOOL AND AFTERCARE FEES**

The fees for the preschool programs are as follows:

<b>Program Format</b>	<b>State-Subsidized/ Tuition</b>	<b>Days Per Week</b>	<b>Cost per Month August-April*</b>	<b>Cost for Sibling Kindertener**</b>
Distance Learning	State-Subsidized	5	Free	Not Applicable
Distance Learning	Tuition	5	\$100	Not Applicable
On Site	State-Subsidized	5	Free	Not Applicable
On Site	Tuition	5	\$700	\$525
On Site	Tuition	4	\$600	\$450
On Site	Tuition	3	\$480	\$360

\*Tuition for the whole year is split into 9 months, August-April. Although students attend school in May, no tuition is due in May.

\*\*On a space-available basis, kindergarten-aged siblings of enrolled preschool students can attend at the rates listed. Free state-subsidized spots are not available for kindergarten-aged students, however, we do offer a 25% sibling discount, as reflected in the table.

Tuition-paying onsite families on a 4- or 3-day per week schedule may also pay for drop-in preschool days at \$45 per day (or \$33.75 for a second sibling).

The fees for the after care program are shown:

<b>Family Preschool Status</b>	<b>Prepaid or Drop-In</b>	<b>Cost Per Day</b>
Tuition	Prepaid	\$15
Tuition	Drop-In	\$18
State-Subsidized	Prepaid or Drop-In	\$7

### **DISTANCE LEARNING GROUP DETAILS**

The distance-learning curriculum will include the following areas of focus:

- Language and literacy
- English language development for Spanish-speaking children and families
- Social and emotional skill development
- Math and science
- Arts, music, and creative play

These areas will be developed through:

- Optional live online class or pre-recorded video each school day. During live online classes, students will have time to interact with their teacher and see other students. In both online classes and pre-recorded videos, teachers will read stories, sing songs, promote language and literacy, explore science and math topics, etc.
- Emails to parents including resources, learning ideas, parenting tips, and more
- Biweekly packet of materials and curriculum, including books, songs, activities, materials, art supplies, and more.
- Regular support and check-ins for families from preschool staff

Distance-learning preschool families can also pick up school meals for their child each day. School meals will be free for students in state-subsidized preschool. For tuition-paying families, school meals will cost the same as meals for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

## **ONSITE GROUP DETAILS**

### **Overall Guiding Principles for the Onsite Group**

The Board's goal for 2020-21 is to keep staff and students safe while supporting a quality education for all students. Recognizing the importance of expert advice, the Board has determined that Pacific Preschool will adopt and follow the current guidance contained in these documents, and in more recent state and local regulations:

- [Santa Cruz County's Guide to Reopening Schools](#)
- [CA Guidance for Child Care Programs](#)
- [CA Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Below are details about how we plan to implement these guidelines and regulations for Pacific Preschool's onsite group in 2020-21.

### **Student Face Coverings**

We understand that student face coverings is an area of significant concern for parents. Furthermore, national and state-level recommendations and requirements have shifted many times in the last few months. However, more and more evidence continues to show that consistent use of face coverings are effective in reducing the risk of community spread of COVID-19. For the safety of your child, your family, and Pacific School staff, we will be expecting students to wear face coverings whenever they are indoors (such as using the restroom) or whenever they are outdoors in a setting in which they are not able to consistently maintain at least 6 feet of separation from others.

Our teachers' approach to encouraging students to wear face coverings will be similar to their approach to encouraging students to engage in other important activities. Our staff will not "force" preschoolers to wear face coverings, but instead make it as fun and normal as possible. In addition to encouragement and role-modeling, teachers will give students choices. If students choose not to wear face coverings, they will need to stay distanced from other students and staff. If students wish to be physically closer to students and staff, they will need to wear face coverings.

Students will be asked to bring their own face covering to school each day, labeled with their name. Families should obtain multiple cloth face coverings that fit each student, so that the student can wear a clean face covering each day. Families should also bring extra face coverings for the student to keep at school or in their backpack. Used face coverings should be laundered before being worn to school again. Pacific School will provide face coverings if families do not provide their own.

Parents can help by:

- Trying multiple styles of face coverings until you find one that fits your child well and is comfortable
- Obtaining enough face coverings so that the student can have extras at school or in their backpack and that clean ones can be worn each day
- Encouraging students to view face coverings as a safety device, similar to shoes, shin guards, bike helmets, and seatbelts
- Reading these great parenting resources on how to talk with your preschooler about wearing masks:
  - <https://tinkergarten.com/blog/help-your-kids-make-friends-with-masks>
  - <https://www.pacificesd.org/uploads/4/5/6/8/45684839/wearing-a-mask-tips.pdf>

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

On arrival students and staff will immediately wash their hands with soap and water, and frequent hand washing will continue throughout the day.

All students must be walked to the preschool gate by an adult and signed into preschool. Parents should bring their own pens for signing students in or out.

A staff member will greet the students at the preschool gate, ask coronavirus exposure questions, conduct a visual wellness check, and take their temperatures with a touchless thermometer before they enter the preschool yard. Any student with COVID symptoms and/or a fever of 100.3 or higher will be sent home.

Teachers and aides will post [signs](#) in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that [promote everyday protective measures](#) and describe how to [stop the spread](#) of germs (such as by [properly washing hands](#) and [properly wearing a cloth face covering](#) . Signage regarding COVID will be posted outside each classroom. We will place posters describing handwashing steps near sinks, arrival and dismissal procedure, and a list of symptoms of COVID from CDC.

## **Disinfecting Procedures**

Teachers and Aides will [clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, etc.) within the school at least daily and between uses as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., sports equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible and/or items will be cleaned between uses. In addition,

individual items such as cubbies, bags of play dough with tools, certain types of toys, etc. will be clearly labeled and used only by the individual child.

Staff will have a clearly labelled toy bucket for mouthed/high-contact toys to be disinfected. Cloth items will be frequently laundered, and/or set aside for a sufficient amount of time to resolve any contamination issues. All toys will be rotated on a regular basis to allow for cleaning and the natural decontamination that occurs with time.

We will ensure [safe and correct use](#) and storage of [cleaning and disinfection products](#) including storing products securely away from children. Cleaning and disinfection products used will meet [EPA disinfection criteria](#). Cleaning products will not be used near children, and staff will ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.

## **Health and Hygiene**

Staff will complete and log a health self-check each day before arriving at work.

Students will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water multiple times each day including after using the bathroom, before and after eating, and after playing in dirt or sand. Children will be instructed in proper handwashing techniques, including scrubbing their hands for at least 20 seconds.

Staff will wash hands after assisting children with handwashing or toilet use, after handling garbage or bodily fluids, before and after handling food or drinks, and other times as needed.

Children will use sinks with soap and water, not hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be available for adult use only and kept out of reach of children.

Families should apply sunscreen daily before students arrive. Families should also ensure students have sun-protective clothing appropriate for the weather each day, as preschool will be conducted primarily outside, except for restroom use.

Gloves will be used when handling or serving food. Food will be individually plated and students will not be allowed to share food. Students will eat outside at least six feet away from other students or staff.

To reduce infection risks, the staff will not lead activities involving singing with the onsite students.

## **Exposure Protocol**

Staff will monitor students for signs of illness throughout the day, and retake temperatures with a touchless thermometer if necessary.

Any student who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to wear a mask and remain in a designated area separated from other children until they can be picked up.

Families will be asked to keep all students home who show any symptoms of COVID-19, or who have been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Families will refrain from giving children any medication with the purpose of lowering a fever before bringing them to school.

Students and staff will follow Santa Cruz County's [Exposure Protocol Flowchart](#) to determine when it is safe to return to campus. Here are some of the key points from the flowchart.

Students and staff should stay home, and get tested if possible, if they exhibit any of the following **symptoms associated with COVID-19**. These include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills and/or repeated shaking with chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain
- Unexplained headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

The child or staff member can return to preschool when:

- At least 3 days (72 hrs) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND
- There is improvement in respiratory symptoms AND
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

Students and staff should also stay home, and get tested if possible, if they have had **close contact with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case**. Close contact includes being closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with someone who has been confirmed or strongly suspected to have COVID-19.

If a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 who has attended on-site classes at Pacific School, the school will act to protect the health of the staff, other students, and their families and will cooperate with contact tracing measures and county health guidance. A known exposure incident could result in a short-term school closure for disinfecting the school, and the affected class engaging in distance learning for a period of time.

### **Possible School Closures**

If the onsite preschool group is closed for longer than three days, tuition-paying parents of students in the onsite group will be given a prorated discount for the time of the closure. However, if individual families need to keep their students home, discounts will not be provided.

Preschool students in the onsite group will be encouraged to join the distance-learning group for the duration of any absences or school closures.

Families who disenroll from preschool cannot re-enroll for at least 30 days, and can only do so if space is available, which is not guaranteed.

### **Smoke Days and Bad Weather**

The preschool plans to use appropriate clothing, existing covered outdoor spaces, and newly built shelters, to remain outside as much as possible. However, occasionally the weather may be extremely unpleasant or the air quality is deemed too smoky for students to safely play outside. If this occurs, preschool may move indoors using the preschool room and the multi-use room so that students can remain in small groups and distanced from each other.

### **OFFICE PROCEDURES**

The office will try to conduct as many processes as possible online, through the mail, and outside. The office will be open regular, but reduced, hours. Office hours will coincide with lunch pickup times for kindergarten through sixth grade students. The exact schedule for office hours will be announced later this summer.

If families need to speak with office staff in person, they will generally do so outside. Families must wear masks and remain six or more feet away from staff.

To facilitate safety and possible contact tracing, all staff and adults who enter the school buildings, even for a brief time, must complete this form: <https://rb.gy/zrz6a> All students and

adults entering the school buildings must wear masks, practice physical distancing, and wash their hands upon entry.

## **NEXT STEPS - HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP**

Here are some specific suggestions for how you can help next year go smoothly for your family and the larger Pacific School community:

1. **If you haven't already, email Chyna a clear answer about whether you want to participate in onsite preschool, distance-learning preschool, or neither. WE NEED THIS INFORMATION BY MONDAY, AUGUST 3.** If you have questions about any of this information, email Stacy, [sreynolds@pacificesd.org](mailto:sreynolds@pacificesd.org), and Rosie, [rperez@pacificesd.org](mailto:rperez@pacificesd.org). If we do not hear that you want an onsite spot by Monday, we will begin offering your spot to other families on the waitlist.
2. **Complete all required enrollment and back-to-school paperwork promptly.**  
*NOTE: Your help with this step will:*
  - a. *Reduce the workload in the office*
  - b. *Save the school money*
  - c. *Allow for a smooth and successful start to school*
3. **Complete the [Contact Information Form](#) now.** Make sure you give us as many ways to reach your family as possible, and tell us which ways are best.
4. **Explain the plans to your student,** but also tell them that this is a plan and plans can change.
5. If joining the onsite group, **obtain multiple face coverings** for your child that cover the nose and mouth without gaps, but that they can also breathe through and wear comfortably. Try different models until you find something that works well. Have enough for each day of the week and extras to keep at school or in their backpack. Plan to launder used cloth masks or replace disposable masks after each school day.
6. If joining the onsite group, **encourage students to practice wearing face coverings,** and to view them as a normal item for going out in public, just like pants and shoes.
7. If joining the onsite group, **prepare your student to learn outdoors.** Make sure they have appropriate clothes, sun protection, rain gear, and attitude for learning, eating, and playing outdoors all day, regardless of weather.
8. If joining the onsite group, **make a plan for when your student cannot go to school.** A student who isn't feeling 100% well should be kept home. And students who show or develop symptoms of illness at school will be sent home. In addition, the preschool may need to shut down at any time, for anywhere from a few days to an extended period. Make plans now for how to handle these types of events.
9. **Reach out to other families** to discuss ways to support each other. Please consider ways to be inclusive of families in different circumstances than your own.

10. **Plan to get involved** with [Parents' Club](#), [Site Council/Preschool Advisory Council](#), [Friends of FoodLab](#), the [Wellness Committee](#), or by volunteering to help maintain the school's grounds and Life Lab garden or to support the school in other ways.