

Dear UPA Community,

I want to welcome you to University Preparatory Academy personally. You have a lot of choices when it comes to choosing the right school for your child and, while it is cliché, we are thankful you chose us. The current pandemic has put a hold on our enrollment plans, and by now, we would have completed our math and English placement exams and conducted a meeting to plan for your classes for the 2020-2021 school year. We are incredibly eager to get back on track, but our current priority is to ensure the health and safety of our UPA community, and that includes you. We appreciate your patience during this difficult time.

While your child is not currently attending UPA, I wanted to let you know what we are doing during the shelter in place. I could not be prouder of our staff for their dedication to keeping our mission alive and the education moving forward. Our teaching staff was ready on day one of the school closures to provide distance learning through our online system and have incorporated other resources to make their classes come alive. They have been incredibly responsive to student and family feedback. Our front office staff has been making personal phone calls to check in on families and find out if there are any needs in the community. We have been distributing laptops and hotspots for families who need them, and we are reimbursing families if they needed to expand their cell phone or internet plans during this critical time. It is during difficult times that you see the resolve of a community, and I can tell you that the UPA spirit is resilient, positive, and united. I consider myself lucky to work alongside such an inspiring group of educators.

As of March 30th, 2020, the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the Santa Clara County Health Department have extended the school closures through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We are reviewing our timelines for assessments and meetings, and once we have a firm date, we will be in contact. Most of you have already completed your registration packets and submitted them online – this has made the process very easy, and we appreciate your assistance. If you have not received that request, or need help, please reach out at ekern@upatoday.com. Mrs. Kern is ready to support you through every step of the process.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out a course request form, and our counselors will be setting up Zoom meetings or 1:1 phone calls, depending on your grade level. Our goal is to ensure that your child is enrolled in the correct classes, get signed up for any orientation programs, and answer any questions you might have about the upcoming school year. If you have questions about the course form, please reach out to mdaugherty@upatoday.com. You can also reach out to your grade level counselors:

- 7th & 8th grade: jbuensuceso@upatoday.com
- 9th & 10th grade: dwesterhoff@upatoday.com
- 11th & 12th grade: strotch@upatoday.com

If you have any general questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at dporter@upatoday.com. You are part of UPA, and I want you to know that we are here to support you every step of the way.

I am looking forward to the day that I can meet you, your child, and your family soon.

Sincerely,

David Porter
Executive Director