

# The Almanac August 2020 - Present



## Portola Valley School District to discuss school waiver in special board meeting

An approved waiver could allow elementary school to open amid pandemic

by Tyler Cattler / Almanac  
Updated: Wed, Aug 26, 2020, 6:20 pm

The Portola Valley School District has called a special meeting of the school board to discuss a [waiver program](#) that could allow elementary schools to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Aug. 30, the San Mateo County department of public health sent out waiver applications to all elementary school superintendents, according to the district's executive assistant Karen Lucian.



The Portola Valley School District board will meet Thursday to discuss a state waiver option for elementary schools that would allow in-person classes to resume at the district's two schools, Corte Madera (pictured) and Ormondale. Photo by Michelle Le

## Students to return to Portola Valley schools

by Angela Swartz / Almanac  
Updated: Fri, Oct 9, 2020, 3:25 pm



The Portola Valley School District received approval to reopen for in-person classes at the district's two schools, Corte Madera (pictured) and Ormondale. Photo by Michelle Le

## First graders return to Portola Valley schools

Classes feature decorative face shields, Zoom gardening lessons and horseshoe marks 6 feet apart

by Angela Swartz / Almanac  
Updated: Thu, Oct 15, 2020, 9:58 am



Ormondale Elementary School first grade teacher Kimber Trifero checks in on her students before they head out for recess in Portola Valley on Oct. 13. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

## Older students head back to classrooms at Corte Madera



In Corte Madera, students are seen playing hula hoops on the school's outdoor basketball court. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

## Costs staggering to reopen local schools amid pandemic

by Angela Swartz / Almanac  
Updated: Wed, Dec 30, 2020, 11:44 am



Andi Dehne speaks to her kindergarten class on the second day of in-person instruction at Oak Knoll Elementary School in Menlo Park on Sept. 29. Each student sits on an assigned yoga mat with an individual desk and laptop. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

## With schools open since fall, local teachers pleaded for priority access to vaccines. Their wish may soon come true

In Portola Valley, some teachers considered walking out of classrooms and going on strike

by Angela Swartz / Almanac  
Updated: Thu, Feb 11, 2021, 4:24 pm



Magi Blue Foster, a school nurse with the Menlo Park City School District, receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Midpeninsula teachers are advocating that anyone working at schools that are open for in-person instruction get priority to receive vaccines. Courtesy

## Midpeninsula Superintendent's Message

Guest opinion: Everyone plays a role in protecting school communities during pandemic  
Posted on 02/16/2021



Midpeninsula superintendents urge caution during upcoming breaks

by Erik Burmeister, Steven Frank, Beth Polito, Gina Sudaria, Roberta Zarea / Almanac

First grader Izzy receives a temperature test from Oak Knoll Elementary School staff member Chris Gumbert at the start of the day in Menlo Park on Sept. 29, 2020. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Nothing is more important to us than the education of our youth and health of our community. As the superintendents of our community's PreK-8 school districts, we would love nothing more than to open all schools fully tomorrow if that were safe. With stakeholders regularly pressuring schools in competing directions, making productive decisions during a global pandemic is a goal we pursue amid evolving guidelines and shifting funding commitments from state and federal government.

## Portola Valley schools project fosters creativity, gratitude

by Angela Swartz / Almanac  
Updated: Sat, Feb 27, 2021, 8:08 am



Ormondale School first grader Bodie Jason created an award for Pully Bridges as part of the 2021 Changemakers Challenge. Courtesy Bodie Jason.