



BULLIS charter school

A CALIFORNIA K – 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL

October 4, 2019

Dear BCS Parents and Staff,

Thanks to the many of you who participated in last week's charette as part of the Los Altos School District (LASD) community engagement process. The Bullis Charter School (BCS) Board wanted to clarify one point that came up with regularity at last Wednesday's meeting (and has been circulating online since then): BCS's integrated kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) teaching model.

BCS is committed to providing a K-8 model to its students and families. It is a top priority to house all grades on the same campus. There are many benefits to this unique program that are integral to our mission and set BCS apart. For example, our K-8 model:

- **Allows kids to be kids**, creating a family environment and a culture of positive and purposeful support. A K-8 model softens the pressures of middle school and keeps older students more engaged and focused. This encourages empathy and an environment where students are mindful of one another and respectful of differences across age groups;
- Provides **leadership opportunities** for students at all grade levels. Upper grade students act as leaders and mentors to their younger peers. It also allows for real-world applications for what they're learning. For example, older students put their education into action by designing apps for younger students, and applying what they're learning on engineering and design solutions for solutions for their lower-grade peers;
- Allows BCS students to benefit from **continuity in their classes and programs** taught by educators who know them well and can support their long-term emotional and social growth; and
- Provides **a robust community** where younger students have role models and older students have leadership opportunities. Whether through a project, mentoring, or sports, all students have the opportunity to learn from each other, regardless of grade level.

The BCS Board is proud of the school's unique K-8 model, and we are committed to realizing BCS' K-8 mission, which has been a priority since our founding 16 years ago. Splitting BCS across two sites, as in our current configuration, was always meant to be a temporary solution. We are eager for all of our families to benefit from the integrated K-8 model, and believe that separating BCS by grade level is neither the best option nor consistent with the school's mission.

In Saturday's final charrette meeting and the upcoming workshops, we encourage BCS parents to advocate for a solution that fully realizes our K-8 integrated model. There are multiple solutions that would support this.

We value your time and voice throughout the community engagement process, and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joe Hurd

For and on behalf of the BCS Board of Directors

