

September 9, 2020

Dear Sunnyside Families —

It's incredible to think that one month of remote learning is already behind us. Although we would like nothing more than to have students back on campus, I have been so impressed by how our teachers and students have engaged in remote learning. I am so proud of our learning community and of your support as parents in helping our students adjust to this environment. Thank you for your commitment and patience through these ever-changing times.

Throughout this pandemic, our commitment to you has always been to reopen schools when the health department indicates it is safe to do this. Last week the [Arizona Department of Health Services data dashboard](#) signaled that Pima County met the criteria to open schools. However, local data from the Pima County Health Department places our schools at “moderate risk” for opening schools with public health tracking and prevention metrics not being met at this time. Given the progress we have made, we anticipate all the Pima County Health Department criteria required to consider opening schools (in limited capacity for hybrid instruction) to be met by mid-September. To review the nine criteria that Pima County school districts are following for making decisions on opening, please click [HERE](#).

For this reason, our Governing Board has set a target date to begin in-person hybrid instruction immediately following our Fall Break, which is now scheduled for October 12th – 16th. This means that the first day for in-person hybrid instruction will be October 19th, provided that the nine Pima County Health Department reopening criteria have been met.

In order for us to best prepare for a responsible reopening, we are asking for your help in the planning process. Families will need to decide what choice is best for them so that we can anticipate how many students will return for in-person instruction. Families, please note that you may choose to keep your students online for remote learning for the second quarter if that is your preference. The two options are as follows:

Hybrid Model – students will alternate between in-person learning and structured, online (asynchronous) learning throughout the week. Students will be assigned to an “A” or “B” schedule and will attend school on alternating days, for example: Group A attends Monday/Thursday and Group B attends Tuesday/Friday. This will help to ensure that fewer students are on campus which helps to maximize physical distancing and safety measures. On Wednesdays, all students will participate in remote learning with the teacher. An effort will be made to keep families/households together. For a detailed description of the hybrid model, visit our website's “Reopening” page which you can access by clicking [HERE](#).

Remote Learning – parents have the option to keep their students in remote learning. Learning will continue to occur in a fully remote setting. Students who continue in remote learning may engage

remotely with a teacher in a structured learning environment. It is likely that students remaining in remote learning will be assigned to a different teacher(s) than they are currently assigned to given that many teachers will be delivering in-person instruction. Students who continue in remote learning may engage remotely with a teacher and have both teacher led (synchronous) and teacher assigned (asynchronous) learning experiences. In the case that there are low numbers of families selecting the remote learning option, students will be enrolled in SOSA and engage in a self-paced learning environment. More details can be found [HERE](#).

It is extremely important that you make your selection by no later than Friday, September 18th. Please make your selection by filling out the questionnaire you can access by clicking on [this link](#). This questionnaire is critical in helping us plan ahead so that we can ensure we have the proper safety measures and staffing in place for your children.

In collaboration with the Pima County Health Department, we have implemented several mitigation strategies that are aligned with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for the safety of staff and students. We invite you to review our mitigation plan which can be found on our website's "Reopening" page, or by clicking [HERE](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please use our [online form](#) to reach us. I want to thank you again for your patience, understanding and assistance with this important request.



Steve Holmes, Superintendent