



August 24, 2020

Dear Imagine Families,

Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our students (and teachers!), ensuring a successful start to the 2020-21 school year with remote-only instruction.

With that being said, we recognize online learning can present challenges, and face-to-face instruction is advantageous for the majority of students. Be assured our goal is to reopen our schools as soon as possible providing families the choice to return to the physical classroom.

Our priority continues to be the health, safety, and well-being of ALL of our students, families and staff. We are thoroughly watching updated COVID health information for schools. Most recently, on August 6th, Arizona health and education officials jointly released community health benchmarks and reopening guidelines. Our state leaders, including Public School Superintendent Kathy Hoffman of the Arizona Department of Education, strongly advise using this data to determine when it's safe for students to return to school. To view the benchmarks, click on the following links:

[Arizona Department of Public Health County-Level School Benchmarks](#)
[Maricopa County School Reopening Dashboard and Guidance](#)

A close review of these benchmarks indicate our schools do not yet meet the reopening guidelines. **Therefore, taking direction from our state and local health officials, our intended September 8th reopening date is being delayed.** We will continue educating our students with rigorous remote learning until the health benchmarks are met for two consecutive weeks as recommended by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Looking Ahead:

Once health benchmarks are met for two consecutive weeks, we will provide an update as to the specific date the schools will reopen. To ensure a successful and safe transition to reopening, schools are advised to open in a "hybrid" approach, with some students learning on campus and some students learning at home. Therefore, our schools may welcome students back in phases or increments (by grade level or content area, etc.).

We know the importance of guaranteeing parents have a choice when our schools reopen. Many parents are ready to have their children return to school while others will prefer to continue remote learning. Each school will send parents a commitment letter asking families to identify one of the following options as their preferred instructional model for their students:

1. On-Site Learning: Return to school in a traditional format, adhering to current safety measures advocated by the CDC and Arizona Dept. of Education

OR

2. Remote Learning: Continue full-time remote learning, utilizing the existing instructional resources and learning management system

Families/students will need to commit to either option for at least the remainder of the fall semester.

We appreciate your understanding that health and safety considerations have come first in every decision made and every action taken by Imagine Schools since COVID-19 entered our lives. Be assured our

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school leaders continue to work tirelessly to develop plans for the safe return of as many students as possible in order to meet students' academic and social emotional needs. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.imagineschoolssouthwest.org/ or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ImagineSchoolsSouthwestGroup.

Sincerely,

Monte Lange
Executive Vice President

Brad Uchacz
Executive Vice President