



September 22, 2020

Dear ASA Families,

Thank you for responding to last week's survey to tell us what you think about returning to school in a hybrid model beginning in the second quarter of school. Your feedback is so important as we continue to plan the optimal learning environment and navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

In our September Board meeting last night, ***the Board of Directors unanimously voted to remain on-line*** with no in-person instruction throughout the 2nd quarter – beginning on October 19th and extending through the Winter Break (January 3rd).

This was not an easy decision to make – we deeply miss our students and our community, but once again the health and well-being of our faculty and students were central to our decision. Factors that we discussed included the guidelines from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, and the CDC, faculty and community surveys on readiness to return, continuity and effectiveness of on-line versus hybrid education – including the capacity of our teachers to be able to offer both on-line and hybrid education simultaneously.

Beginning in the 2nd quarter (October 19) we will slowly and carefully bring life back to our campus by allowing small opportunities for some arts classes and activities to be on campus and practicing safety measures (proper mask use, handwashing and social distancing, etc). Our newly formed Parent and Family Engagement Committee will continue to offer ways to forge connections with our entire community, and for the first time in a number of years, we will be mailing you an ASA Family Directory so that you can connect with one another. We will also continue to hone our return to school plan in the hopes that next semester we can return in person. Please check the resources on our website as we update.

I want to recognize the efforts and innovations from our faculty to make on-line learning work for both the academics and the arts. The additional time required to learn and use the new technologies available have added considerably to their workload and they are working overtime to make sure that our students are engaged and also progressing toward their learning goals. We know you are too, and we thank you!

This article published last weekend in the AZ Republic celebrates how ASA is finding opportunity to push the envelope in performing arts education during the pandemic. The Arts are alive at ASA! <https://www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/music/2020/09/19/arizona-school-arts-adapts-arts-education-during-covid-19/5761643002/>

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We will continue to make decisions that allow for adequate planning time for our teachers and families as well as continuity of learning for our students. At the November 23rd Board meeting, we will make a decision as to how school will operate beginning after the Winter Break on January 3rd, 2021.

With appreciation,
Leah

Leah Fregulia
Head of School and CEO