

November 24, 2020



Dear ASA Families,

First and foremost, from all of us at ASA, during this season of gratitude, we wish you a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving! Although we are all probably adjusting our usual plans, the spirit of the season prevails. We are thankful for our ASA community and the overwhelming support and appreciation you all have expressed for the monumental efforts of faculty, staff, administration and our Board of Directors to maintain learning and the health and well-being of our entire community. I am especially grateful for the exemplary efforts of our faculty to remain grounded in ASA teaching philosophy even within the remote learning environment. It is not easy, and they are working very hard to preserve the heart of ASA.

Last night, the ASA Board of Directors met to discuss the school reopening plans for the 2nd Semester (beginning on January 4th). Over 90 individuals attended the meeting, including faculty, staff, students, and parents demonstrating not only the importance of the decision before the Board, but also our shared commitment to making the best choice for our students, faculty and staff.

At the end of the meeting our Board voted to approve the four learning scenarios developed by our team of administrators and faculty members. Each scenario is aligned with one of the benchmarks outlined by the Arizona Department of Health Services and CDC Guidelines:

Green – Full return to campus

Yellow – Hybrid (students have 2 days for on campus learning and 2 day for online learning)

Orange – Online learning with on campus student support, activities, clubs and events.

Red – Campus closed/Online learning

In addition to the public comment, the Board reviewed the current health data presented by ASA's Health and Wellness Council, additional facilities preparation for return to campus (shade!) and my recommendation for school re-opening in January. ***ASA is 100% ready to go given any community health condition and decision reached by our Board!***

Most importantly the Board voted unanimously to ***return in January in an Orange Learning Scenario with an option to return to Red (fully online with no groups on campus) if Community Health conditions worsen and, with Board Action, the option to move to Yellow (hybrid) if the community health conditions improve. In an upcoming survey to be emailed on November 30th, you will receive details of each model.*** The Board also acknowledged the rapidly increasing virus spread and length of time between today and January 4th. They will reconsider this decision at the December 14th Board meeting.

Finally, while we have been making decisions for entire quarters of school until now, with the new learning scenarios presented, our ability to be more responsive to community health conditions and student needs has dramatically increased. We are now able to be more flexible throughout the year and to increase safe opportunities on campus for individualized student academic and arts support, activities, clubs and even performances as safety measures allow. In other words, we will not necessarily remain in one mode throughout an entire quarter if health conditions improve/worsen.

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Moving forward in the Orange Learning Scenario, faculty and administration will be considering the highest student needs for on campus curricular and extra-curricular events with the hope of increasing those opportunities. Faculty will continue to be invited to teach from campus if they are comfortable doing so. We will be monitoring community health benchmarks weekly to determine the number of opportunities we are able to provide.

Coming up, please respond to the November 30th survey and carefully read the information embedded within for more details about each learning scenario. On December 2nd we will host a community Town Hall to present the scenarios, share campus preparations and answer your questions – please attend!

While we realize that the decision to remain in this limited on-campus Orange scenario is not the first choice for many of our students and families, we will continue to find more creative pathways to meet student needs on and off campus and to proactively seek further on campus engagements for all grade levels.

I hope to see you all on Dec. 2nd at 5:30 p.m. ([via Zoom](#)) at the Town Hall.

Wishing you all a safe and bountiful holiday!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Leah Fregulia'.

Leah Fregulia
Head of School/CEO