

February 13, 2021



Dear ASA Families,

As we look toward the final quarter of the year, I can only imagine how much you are looking forward to the next decision from our Board of Directors as to how school will open for the 4th quarter. We are at an important inflection point – with our Community Health Benchmarks appearing more favorable and the majority of our faculty and staff vaccinated. The decision will be made at our February Board of Directors meetings with careful consideration of all the factors explained below.

As of today, the CDC has sent out new School Opening Guidelines. The new guidelines continue to leave the final decision about school reopening to local entities (schools and school districts). The mitigation guidelines recommended by the CDC align with ASA’s planning priorities – masking; social distancing; hand washing; facility cleansing; improved ventilation; tracking, isolation and quarantining. Teacher vaccination is not one of the top mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC because states have various deployment priorities. However, we are fortunate that in Arizona, educators were moved to the top of the list. Over 85% of ASA faculty and staff will be fully vaccinated by the beginning of March.

Next week the ASA Health and Wellness Council will meet once again to review these new CDC Guidelines, the Community Health Benchmarks reflecting the current rates of COVID – 19 positivity and hospitalizations in our county - as we have monthly since March of 2020. On Monday, February 22nd at 5:30 p.m. the Board of Directors will meet again to review the plans and mitigation strategies already developed by the ASA Senior Leadership Team, recommendations from the Health and Wellness Council, and review the school learning plan options for students beginning on March 22nd for the final quarter of school. Parents are invited to attend the Board meeting and register to speak for one minute during the Call to the Public at the top of the meeting prior to board discussion and decision or simply attend the meeting and hear the deliberations of the Board of Directors. You can attend the meeting via [Zoom](#).

Following the February 22nd Board meeting, I will send out a letter to communicate the decision and plans moving forward. On Thursday, February 25th at 5:30 p.m., Principal Sara Maline Bohn and I will host a Parent/Guardian Townhall via [Zoom](#) to review the decision, next steps and answer your questions.

Prior to the February 22nd meeting of the Board of Directors, no decisions about returning to school will be made. However, we are well prepared to quickly respond to and implement any decision reached. ***It is our priority to return to in-person learning as soon as it is determined safe to do so while continuing to provide remote learning to families who elect to continue in the current mode.***

I am so proud of our ASA community who have stuck together through this unimaginable year, and I know we will emerge a stronger and more resilient community. Looking forward to seeing many of you at one or both of the meetings in February.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leah'.

Leah Fregulia
Head of School/CEO

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