



March 26, 2021

Dear ASA Families,

I am writing with some exciting news! The word may already be out that the Board of Directors passed two motions about school opening on Monday night. First – we will be moving to a full in person learning mode beginning on April 12th. An online learning option will continue to be offered until the end of this school per Governor Doug Ducey’s Executive Order (2021-04). No hybrid (2 day per week) option will be offered beginning on April 12th.

This decision, which I wholeheartedly support, is based ***upon our priority to consider the health (including social and emotional), wellness, safety and success of our student coupled with a strong recommendation from our Health and Wellness Council (HWC) composed of physicians and medical experts in the field of epidemiology as well as parents, faculty, and staff.*** With the new [CDC guidelines for school reopening](#) and the [Covid-19 transmission rate for Maricopa County](#) already very close to moderate, we believe this is the best decision for ASA at this time. Although there has been a small uptick in the transmission rate since spring break, the professional opinion from the HWC is that it is safe to open school if we closely follow the CDC and ADHS guidance to strictly enforce the mask policy and socially distance where is possible. We have 87% of our faculty and staff vaccinated and outdoor arrangements for arts and lunch in place. More detailed information will be provided in our Friday updates and next week. We will continue to monitor the data every Thursday; however, if there is no statewide mandate to return to online learning, we will operate fully in person through to the end of the year following all our mitigations practices and paying close attention to minimize lunch time risks. Indoor eating will continue to be prohibited.

Currently, about 27% of our families have chosen to remain online. If you are not currently using the online option, but would feel more comfortable exercising this option, please contact [frontoffice@goasa.org](mailto:frontoffice@goasa.org) to request the change.

***The second decision reached by the Board of Directors during Monday night’s meeting was to reopen school in August in the same in person mode 5 days per week with no option for online learning.*** We will continue to implement the same mitigation procedures. Again, if there is a state mandate to close, we will offer online learning as required.

Our transition to the hybrid model has been highly successful and appreciated thanks to the diligence of our entire ASA team. When we consider holistically the health and well-being of our young people coupled with the high level of efficacy of the vaccine and our mitigation policies and procedures, I am confident that we have made the right choice for today and the future. As always, we will monitor the data and CDC recommendations diligently.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our students back to campus on April 12th!

Warmly,

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

Leah Fregulia  
Head of School/CEO

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