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SANDERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #18

July 15, 2020----Press Release

The Reopening of Schools—Online on August 4, 2020

On June 13, 2020 the Sanders Unified School District School Board met to discuss many issues involving the reopening of our schools this fall. This included a discussion on the executive orders issued on June 24, 2020 and on June 29, 2020.

On June 24, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey issued an executive order that will have a significant impact on the success of Arizona Schools during the 2020-2021 school year. This order assures funding and allows school districts to proceed with developing four scenarios outlined by the Arizona Department of Education's "Roadmap for Reopening Schools".

On June 29, 2020 Governor Doug Doucey issued an executive order which closed Arizona schools up through August 17, 2020. Included with this order was a provision allowing schools to start as scheduled providing all students were taught remotely.

Links to information about Governor Ducey's executive orders can be found on our district web page at www.sandersusd.net.

On June 25, 2020, Governor Ducey held a press conference outlining the importance of wearing face masks, physical distancing and regularly washing hands. He also expressed his appreciation to those who have actively taken to heart the stay-at-home requests in an effort to slow down the spread of COVID-19 so our hospitals and medical professionals could prepare for patients who would need hospitalization. Governor Ducey shared that over 63,000 Arizonians have tested positive for COVID-19. There is currently an average of 2,750 new cases every day. To date there have been 1,490 deaths. This pandemic has been the largest peace-time, world-wide disaster since World War II. You can find a link to his entire press release on our web page.

Reopening of Schools—August 4, 2020

Please be assured the Sanders Unified School District is addressing the educational programs for our students and children. The "Roadmap for Reopening Schools" has been a top priority.

Due to the recent executive orders and the wide-spread pandemic we announce that our district will reopen as scheduled on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 under a Distance Learning platform. All students will be issued a laptop or tablet. Hot Spots will be available to families who need internet services. You will find there will be many improvements over the emergency shut down in March 2020. Included in this news release is an overview of the 4 scenarios required by the Arizona Department of Education's "Roadmap for Reopening Schools". Our district will reopen under scenario 3 (Distance Learning) and move towards scenario 2

Arnold Goodluck
Board President

Duane Noggle
Board Clerk

Marlene Apachee
Board Member

Anita Watchman
Board Member

Daisy Slim
Board Member



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(Modified In-Person) with the goal of moving to scenario 1 (Brick and Mortar) as soon as possible. Scenario 4 will only be used if there is an emergency closure such as occurred in March of 2020.

Families who desire to keep their student on the remote learning platform (Scenario 3) may certainly do so. Students will not be required to move to a different scenario.

We have updated our remote / distance learning opportunity to an effective online instruction program with teacher support from school. Professional development opportunities for all of our staff on the implementation of online instruction is being provided so your student will find an improved experience this year.

Registration of Students—Online

In an effort to address the pandemic and reduce the spread of COVID-19 the Sanders Unified School District has purchased and is implementing an online registration system for students. This important change will allow families to register students using any device with web services. This includes cell phones, tablets, laptops, and desktop computers. You may register online at www.sandersusd.net.

For additional help and information please contact your school registrar for assistance:

Valley High School

Rozzanne Joe 928-688-4206

Sanders Middle School and Sanders Elementary School

Darlene Martinez 928-688-4770 or 928-688-3852

Arizona Department of Education's Roadmap to Reopening Schools We are addressing the four scenarios as follows:

Scenario 1

1. **Return to School (Brick and Mortar) In-Person Experience**

Under this scenario students would return to school following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

This would include:

- School in session 5 days per week
- Physical distancing
- Enhanced cleaning and safety protocols
- Face Masks
- Elementary classes stay together at recess
- Materials will not be shared
- All students will have access to technology
- Electives/specials will observe physical distancing and safety protocols

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- Modified breakfast and lunch periods
- May participate in extracurricular activities, and high school athletics, following guidelines and safety measures (This is still under review as more information and guidance is received from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)).
- Social and emotional support to promote student, staff and family wellness.

Scenario 2

2. Modified In-Person Experience

- Five days per week
- Blended model that provides both in-person and remote learning experiences
- Physical Distancing by reducing the number of students in the classroom
- While on campus, students will adhere to all in-person learning experience protocols
- All students will have access to technology
- May participate in extracurricular activities, and high school athletics, following guidelines and safety measures (This is still under review as more information and guidance is received from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)).
- Social and emotional support to promote student and family well-being
- May enroll in extended-day programming and programming on days students are not on campus (fees apply).

Scenario 3

3. Remote / Distance Learning Experience

- Five days a week
- All students will have a district provided computer or tablet
- Classes will be conducted on-line or led by a teacher
- High-quality digital curriculum through APEX and Savvas Realize Learning Platform following Arizona Online Instruction (AOI)
- Access to virtual “specials” (K-6)
- May transition to in-person or modified learning experiences at quarter and semester breaks
- Extracurricular activities and high school athletics participation, following in-person guidelines (This is still under review as more information and guidance is received from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)).
- Social and emotional support to promote student, staff and family wellness

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Scenario 4

4. Emergency Closures

- Families and Community Members will be notified via our Black Board Communication System. This will include telephone messages, text messages and email communications
- Once initial announcement has been made via Black Board additional information will be updated on our district web page.
- If the closure persists for an extended period of time, learning experiences will be provided as outlined in scenario three, "Remote Learning Experience".

Fall Sports

After much deliberation and upon reviewing the seriousness of our current pandemic our district has decided to cancel our fall sports. This has been done in conjunction with other districts who have already announced the cancellation of their fall sports as well.

Your understanding during this reopening process is greatly appreciated. As these are unprecedented times, adjustments and changes may be necessary while we continue to fight COVID-19. Please know it is our privilege to serve you and your children. As we work together, we can face the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Kim J. Pearce
Superintendent
Sanders Unified School District

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