



January 26, 2021

Dear PUSD Families and Staff,

The PUSD mission reads: Our schools are passionate about the Learning-for-All mission and understand that every student matters. We are responsible and accountable for every student's education that walks through our doors every day (in person or virtually). Our primary function is to improve the accessibility of differentiated instruction and support services during both in-person and remote learning situations. We have a moral imperative to provide this choice to our students and families.

We exist to educate students and, while the remote environment has allowed school/learning to continue, we know that having our students in person is the best way to support learning and ensure that we meet our students' needs. In a hybrid environment, families can choose between remote and in-person, and select the learning environment that best meets their needs. Eighty percent of the district's staff have had their first dose of the vaccine and, as a result, the decision was made to provide the option for students to return to a hybrid learning environment beginning **Tuesday, February 16, 2021**. Most of the district's staff will have had their second dose of the vaccine by this date to help ensure the safety of our staff and students.

Week	Action
January 25 - 29, 2021	Current week with no OSS and staff teaching from home if possible.
February 1 - 5, 2021	OSS begins at school sites. Staff will begin transitioning back to their classrooms sites
February 8 - 12, 2021	All staff will be working from their classroom or building sites.
February 10, 2021	2nd Dose in Tuba City - an asynchronous day for Tuba City participants.
February 12, 2021	Professional development day - No school for students.
February 16, 2021	All students have the option to return to in-person learning and those wishing to remain remote may do so. The Wednesday early release will remain for students. In-person is five days on campus in class. Lunch will continue to be closed for the high school.

In October 2020, the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) published recommendations for schools, "Safely Returning to In-person Instruction," to guide schools in monitoring community spread and maintaining a safe learning environment.

ADHS and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) has agreed to support those jurisdictions that can maintain a safe learning environment with regular school-by-school monitoring, regardless of community COVID-19 transmission levels. If PUSD experiences a school-related outbreak that cannot be controlled with public health mitigation strategies, we will transition back to a remote learning environment.

Recent publications emphasize the benefits of in-person learning, particularly for elementary schools. The emerging data indicates that in-person school attendance is not a risk factor for the youth testing positive for COVID-19.

We appreciate and respect the hard work, tough decisions, and grace staff and families have provided. We are committed to educating all students and putting in the resources and services they need to provide Arizona's greatest education!

Respectfully,


Larry E. Wallen,
Superintendent