

**ORACLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**(520) 896-3070**  
**P.O. Box 1720**  
**2618 W El Paseo**  
**Oracle, AZ 85623**  
**www.OSD2.ORG**



September 28, 2020

Oracle Elementary School District,

Our Governing Board recently voted to continue distance learning at Mountain Vista K-8 School after our return from Fall Break on Tuesday, October 13. This unanimous decision was not made quickly, easily, or without consideration of each possible alternative. Our Governing Board and I agree that traditional in-person learning is the best option for instruction, interaction, and interventions. It is our goal to resume traditional in-person learning at Mountain Vista K-8 School soon and when it is safe to do so.

The alternatives to distance learning are hybrid learning and traditional in-person learning. Many districts in our state will soon transition to hybrid learning. We agree that hybrid learning (an instruction model where half of the students attend school in-person while the other half of the students engage in distance learning and then each student group switches to in-person or distance learning on opposite days of the week) has its benefits. We also agree that hybrid learning includes a multitude of changes, challenges, and downsides that we do not want to require our staff and students to endure if not absolutely necessary.

We recognize that the continuation of distance learning may present a hardship for families who advocated for a transition to hybrid learning in our online survey during the week of September 14. To meet the needs of students in need of improved internet service, supervision, or support during the school day, we will expand our Cares Program and accommodate more students when we return from Fall Break.

We will continue to monitor the metrics established by the Arizona Department of Health and county health departments. Our Governing Board will reassess if a transition to traditional in-person learning will be safe during our October Governing Board Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the school cafeteria. If the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our community start to rise before the October Governing Board Meeting, our Governing Board will reassess a transition to traditional in-person learning during the November Governing Board Meeting on Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Our staff and community are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings of our Governing Board on the third Thursday of each month.

Our maintenance and custodial teams are working each day to prepare our campus for the return of students. When students return for traditional in-person learning, we will have touch-free hand soap and paper towel dispensers in each restroom, water bottle filling stations in place of drinking

## GOVERNING BOARD

**STEVE BROWN**  
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fountains on the playgrounds, hand sanitizer dispensers throughout campus, additional picnic tables for outdoor seating, a surplus of cleaning products to ensure the sanitation for surface areas, high quality air filters in each HVAC unit on campus, and both signage and training to help our students learn to consistently wash their hands properly.

When we return for traditional in-person learning we will continue to require students and staff who are sick to stay home. We will continue to use technology including Google Classroom to share assignments with students who are at home sick and work to make absences from school due to illness less of an academic hardship than they were before the COVID-19 school closures. When children become sick at school, we ask that they be picked up by a parent, guardian, or emergency contact as soon as possible.

If a family does not plan to send their child to campus for traditional in-person learning this school year, I will ask that they reach out to my office directly at 520-896-3074 before Monday, October 12, 2020. We will work together to create an educational plan for each child and will assign a “teacher of record” and online curriculum to support each child. We do not plan for our teachers to teach both distance learning and traditional in-person students simultaneously. Families that request continued distance learning options beyond our transition back to campus will be accommodated with online curriculum options for the remainder of the school year.

I’m enthusiastic to see the number of positive COVID-19 cases decrease in Arizona. I’m hopeful that the measures we each make at work and at home to stop the spread of this virus will help this pandemic end soon. I’m proud of the teaching that takes place each day in our Google Classrooms and the learning that takes place in each home. I’m inspired by the resilience of our students and the commitment of our staff. I know we are unique by not transitioning to hybrid learning after Fall Break. I’m confident that we are doing the right thing by maintaining the routines we created a month ago when the school year started. We will be able to welcome students back to school soon and when we do, it will be the most wonderful day this campus has seen since March.

Thank you for your continued support,

Crystle Nehrmeyer  
Superintendent  
cnehrmeyer@osd2.org  
520-896-3074

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