

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



January 15, 2021

Oracle Elementary School District Community,

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained committed to making decisions based upon the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We also have remained committed to maintaining consistent communication with the Arizona Department of Health Services, Pinal County Health Department, Arizona Department of Education, and each member of our community.

It was our hope to reopen our Cares Program on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. After speaking with the Pinal County Health Department, we know we will not be able to safely open our Cares Program or Preschool as hoped. We will continue to monitor our ability to safely staff our Cares Program and Preschool on a weekly basis. We will continue to work with the Pinal County Health Department to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will make the decision to reopen our onsite programs when it is safe to do so.

While our ultimate goal is to return to traditional, in-person learning and instruction as soon as possible, I must acknowledge that current data and projections compel a continuation of distance learning through the remainder of the third academic quarter, when we hope our community's health circumstances have improved.

Some specifics on the data:

- In Pinal County, the rate of individuals testing positive for the virus is 21.6 percent. This exceeds the statewide number of 13.6 percent. For reference, a rate of 10 percent or more is considered to be of significant concern.
- The State of Arizona's current COVID-19 infection rate is 648 cases per 100,000 in population. In Pinal County, that number is 467 cases per 100,000.
- A bright spot is that half of our staff volunteered to receive the first dose of the Moderna vaccine and within six weeks, after the second dose, should be vaccinated against COVID-19.

In the meantime, and as long as it's necessary, it is our deepest hope each member of our community will do their part so that we can reopen schools safely and provide our students with the support and education they deserve.

Thank you,

Crystle Nehrmeyer
Superintendent
cnehrmeyer@osd2.org

BOARD
APPROVED
DATE 01.14.2021