

Pomerene School

2020-2021 SY

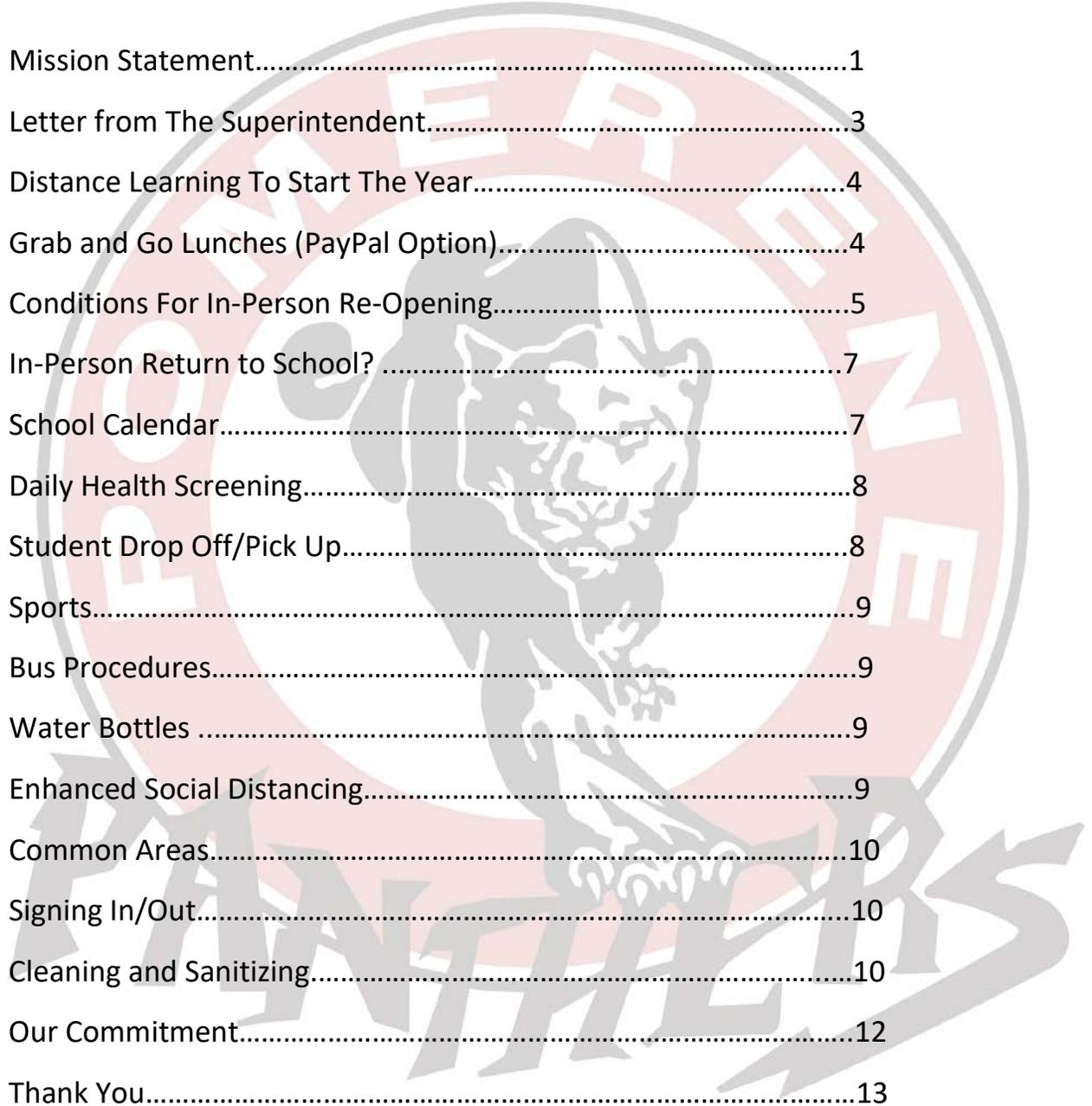
(COVID-19 Guidance Document for Re-opening School)

The Pomerene School District is a welcoming school community whose mission is to provide an engaging and safe learning environment, emphasizing quality education and traditional values that prepare students to seize opportunities for success!

Furthermore, please know that we recognize the uncertainty you may be facing as you make plans for this coming school year and we are doing our best to address the questions and concerns we are all facing as a school.

- **We are committed to preserving each family as part of our school community through these very challenging times.**
- **We are committed to providing a rich Pomerene educational experience for our students.**
- **We will continue to communicate plans and decisions as they develop.**

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July 15, 2020

Pomerene School Community,

I am pleased to announce that Pomerene School will be opening on July 23, 2020! We appreciate the overwhelming response to our survey, driving our decision to open early with distance learning opportunities. Unfortunately, our state's leaders are not permitting in-person school at that time. Our school recognizes that this distance learning situation may not have been the way you wanted the school year to start. We recognize the many frustrations associated with parents having to manage the academic needs of their children. This is especially true for working parents with younger children. We are committed to making our, allowable, distance learning opportunities the best they can be! As a student enrolled at Pomerene School on July 23rd, you can expect the following:

- Teachers will be in their classrooms from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM, focused on the individual circumstances of each student, offering instruction and feedback on all assignments.
- Both online and paper opportunities will be available.
- Teachers will show leniency in their expectations of students and families based on the feedback you give them.
- During this time, between July 23rd and the day in-person school resumes, parents will have the ability to push on the brakes or the gas pedal in relation to the learning opportunities we offer.
- We aim to avoid causing frustration while simultaneously offering as much as is desired.
- Teachers will count on your feedback to ensure just the right amount of opportunities are being offered.
- Teachers will respond to any concerns you have in a timely manner.
- Breakfast/Lunch will be available for pick-up. There will be food service fees determined by your free and reduced lunch status. We strongly encourage all to fill out our free and reduced meals paperwork. These numbers help our school tremendously!

We look forward to making the best of this situation. We are confident that our efforts in working together with families will help us to ensure continued success for each of our students!

Upon returning to school in-person, Pomerene students will not be required to wear a mask unless mandated by the state or county. At this time, masks are not required. However, masks are recommended. With our extremely small class sizes, averaging 12, we are able to maintain good social distancing practices throughout the day. Face coverings will be provided and asked to be used only in very limited instances where social distancing is not achievable. We aim to eliminate the need to wear the face covering with good social distancing practices. However, we are asking that each student have one readily available in the event it is needed. Students will work throughout the day in cohorts, limiting exposure and allowing for more traditional student interactions. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. More details to come...

With kindest regards,



Michael L. Sherman

Pomerene School Superintendent

msherman@pomereneschool.org

We Have Two Plans for Opening the School

1. July 23rd Distance learning
2. August 17th In-Person return to school

Plan 1: Distance Learning / In-Person Closure-

(This will not be what you saw at the end of the last school year)

All students will be welcomed back to school with a personal communication from their teacher outlining expectations and procedures for all things related to your child's coursework.

- Teachers will be in their classrooms from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM, focused on the individual circumstances of each student, offering instruction and feedback on all assignments.
- Both online and paper opportunities will be available.
- Google Classroom, Study Island, Marco Polo, Kahn Academy, and Odysseyware are among the list of platforms to be used.
- Teachers will show leniency in their expectations of students and families based on the feedback parents/guardians give them.
- During this time, between July 23rd and the day in-person school resumes, parents/guardians will have the ability to push on the brakes or the gas pedal in relation to the learning opportunities we offer.
- We aim to avoid causing frustration while simultaneously offering as much as is desired.
- Teachers will count on parent/guardian feedback to ensure just the right balance of opportunities are being offered.
- Teachers will respond to any concerns parents/guardians have, in a timely manner.

Grab and Go Lunches

Grab and go Breakfast/Lunch will be available for pick-up at our drive-thru between 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM. If you are unable to pick up your lunches, you may call the school and make other arrangements. There will be food service fees determined by your free and reduced lunch status. We strongly encourage all to fill out

our free and reduced meals paperwork. These numbers help our school tremendously!

Breakfast/Lunch orders must be made on Fridays for the upcoming week and will be made through SurveyMonkey. Parents/Guardians will receive a survey via text and email that will require them to indicate which days they will be purchasing a meal for the next week. Orders may be canceled by phone call to the office, by 3:30 PM the day prior.

Need to pay for your child's lunch? There are several ways you can do so. We will take cash, check, money order, cashier's check and now you can use PayPal. When paying by PayPal there is no fee if you pay from either your PayPal balance or your checking account. There will be a small fee if you choose to use your debit or credit card.

- 1. log onto your PayPal account (or set one up)*
- 2. Select Tab MONEY*
- 3. Select Tab Send or request Money*
- 4. Click on Send to Friends and family*
- 5. Type our new address cafeteria@pomereneschool.org*
- 6. Enter the amount you want to send (enter your child(s) name in the note section)*
- 7. Confirm the info and send*

Have questions? Give the office a call and we can help you out.

Office number: 520-586-2407

***Note- Distance Learning options may continue to be available after In-Person School opens. This will be contingent upon executive orders allowing for funding.**

We look forward to making the best of this situation. We are confident that our efforts in working together with families will help us to ensure continued success for each of our students!

Conditions for In-Person Reopening

1. Reopening will be consistent with applicable state and local orders.
2. Orders may come from the Governor's Office, County Leaders, Arizona Department of Health Services, Local Health Departments.
3. Pomerene School is ready to protect children and employees at higher risk for severe illness.
4. Pomerene School is able to screen students and employees, upon arrival, for symptoms and history of exposure.
5. Pomerene School will conduct daily health checks/screenings when feasible and can include:
 - A. Visual symptom checks, which may include temperature checks.
 - B. Verbal/written confirmation from parent that student is symptom-free.
6. Pomerene School will encourage anyone who is sick to stay home.
7. Pomerene School will have procedures in place for when students or employees get sick.
8. Pomerene School will regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.
9. Pomerene School will monitor student and employee absences and have flexible leave policies and practices.
10. Pomerene School will be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.

***Note:** Implementation (of CDC guidance) should be guided by what is **feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community.**

Plan 2: In-Person School

Welcome all students back to our beautiful campus on the first day allowed, currently set for August 17th. **(However, there is a big push from many districts in larger cities asking for an extension of in-person school closure.)** The Pomerene School community will follow specific health precautions which will be in accordance with our local, state, and federal requirements and will include, at a minimum, the following:

- Adults must attest to being symptom-free each day.
- Adults/Students will have face coverings readily accessible, to be used where social distancing is not reasonably achievable.
- Social distancing will be practiced to the extent that there is minimal need for face coverings.
- Personal hygiene will be emphasized.
- Extra Social Emotional support, related to the pandemic, will be provided to students and staff.
- Students will operate in cohorts, greatly reducing the chances of another schoolwide shutdown.
- Students will eat lunch with their cohort.
- Students will enjoy recess time with their cohorts.
- Staff will disinfect shared surfaces and equipment between uses.
- Pomerene School will reduce or, in some cases, eliminate shared materials.
- Pomerene School will be creative in finding ways to offer extra-curricular activities and actualize events shown on the school calendar, where possible.

Pomerene School Calendar 2020-2021 SY

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18kB_JguzNYdXUkTPCad8Ap_3XOEPX0TP/view?usp=sharing

Daily Health Screening

A staff member, wearing appropriate PPE, will visually check each student and may take temperatures with a non-contact thermometer prior to students entering the school. Any student with visible symptoms of runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, or one who has a fever at or above 100.4 degrees, will be taken to the student office. Parents may be contacted for pick-up with the following exceptions:

- If the student has a runny nose and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory condition and the nurse/health aide observes that there are no other symptoms, the nurse/health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, the student may return to class.
- If your student shows any of these signs at home please do not let them attempt to attend school.
- If we have a confirmed case present in the school, we will contact our county health officials to help determine the best actions to be taken.

***Note: Students that ride the bus will be screened before they are allowed to enter the bus.**

Continuum of Screening:

HOME is the first point on the screening continuum. Families should self-report symptoms of illness, which could include fever, new onset of cough, or close contact with an infected individual. Please contact the school and let us know about any possible conditions; we will excuse these absences and provide distance learning

opportunities for them so they will not fall far behind or lose seat hours.

TRANSPORTATION is the second point on the screening continuum. Students will be screened, and if they have any of the above mentioned symptoms they will not be allowed on the bus.

SCHOOL is the final point on the screening continuum. Pomerene School will screen every individual that comes on campus to ensure they are not showing symptoms. If anyone is showing symptoms they will be asked to go home.

Student Drop off procedures

We will have a drive thru drop off in front of the school running north to south. A staff member will meet you at the drop off point, screen your child for symptoms and see to it your child enters the school.

- Please do not leave until your student has been cleared to stay at school.

Student Pick up procedures

Parents/Guardians may park and text their teacher to let them know they are here. Students will then be escorted to the parent who will remain at

their vehicle. If weather permits, we would ask that you stand in front of your parked vehicle to aid in this process.

Students waiting for pick up will be grouped with their cohort classes and monitored by staff.

Sports:

We have an aspirational date of October 2, 2020, for our first volleyball games to take place. More information to come.

Bus Procedures:

All bus riders will be screened prior to boarding the bus. Parents are asked to be present at their bus stop until their child or children have been cleared to board the bus.

- While on the bus, students will be seated by cohorts or with siblings. When possible, there will be an empty seat between cohorts.
- Students will be taught best practices for social distancing while riding the bus.

***Note:** Our bus is typically at only half capacity. However, students may be asked to wear their, readily available, face covering in the event our bus approaches its capacity.

Water Procedures:

- All water fountains will be turned off. We will have water filling stations instead. Please send a refillable water bottle each day.

Enhanced Social Distancing:

- Staff members will educate and remind students regularly to maintain the desired 6' of distance between individuals at all times possible. This will be done respectfully with a tone meant to result in understanding and not intended to be punitive in any way.
- **Small class sizes averaging 12 will greatly enhance Pomerene School's ability to practice good social distancing behaviors.**

Common Areas:

- **Classrooms**- Operate in cohorts with social distancing behaviors practiced within.
- **Hallways**- Scheduling will allow for one cohort at a time to pass when possible.
- **Playgrounds**- Cohorts will be assigned to designated areas on a rotating schedule
- **Lunch Rooms**- Students will be seated at a table with their cohort class. There will be a desired 6' of distance between tables.
- **Restrooms**- In order to meet social distancing guidelines, restrooms will be limited to 2 students at a time.

SIGNING IN OR SIGNING OUT STUDENTS

- Masks will be recommended for all visitors entering campus.
- All visitors will remain at the front office unless given permission otherwise.
- Office staff will be behind a plexiglass barrier to limit interaction between visitors and staff/students.
- Sick children will be kept in a designated area until parent/guardian/emergency contact picks them up.
- Custodians/office staff will be asked to promptly disinfect areas that the sick child was in. Staff will disinfect the office prior to other students entering the office.

CLEANING AND SANITATION

- Sanitation will happen regularly after each class period. Students will be given disinfectant towels to wipe down desks and seats as they enter each classroom. Students will then use hand sanitizer to disinfect their hands.
- Whenever possible or after 3 uses of hand sanitizer, it will be recommended to students and staff to wash their hands with soap and water.

- Teachers/Instructional assistants will wipe down (disinfect) door knobs/handles, counters, desks, tables, and shelves between each class period.
- Custodians will clean restrooms often, disinfecting toilets, sinks and urinals.
- Custodians will disinfect counters, door knobs/handles, windows, doors, handrails, and anything else that may be touched throughout the school day.

Please remember-

The Pomerene School District is a welcoming school community whose mission is to provide an engaging and safe learning environment, emphasizing quality education and traditional values that prepare students to seize opportunities for success!

Again, please know that we recognize the uncertainty you may be facing as you make plans for this coming school year and we are doing our best to address the questions and concerns we are all facing as a school.

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*We will continue to communicate plans and decisions as they develop.

To the San Pedro Valley

Thank You

For Your Kindness,
Your Commitment and
Your Unwavering Support of

POMERENE SCHOOL

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." —Mark Twain

Pomerene Elementary School

Serving the San Pedro Valley for over 100 years.

Average Class Size Under 15  Homestyle meals  Friendly People
For a personal tour call us 586-2704 or visit us at WWW.pomereneschool.org



We Hope to See You Soon!