

WENDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box 8-71101 E Santa Fe Ave.

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July 21, 2020

To: Parents, Students and Community Members

Re: Temporary Distance Learning During **Mandated** School Closure

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

We truly appreciate your willingness to have taken on the sudden role as teacher while our communities and schools have had to deal with COVID-19 pandemic. During this crisis, our community looks to their elected leaders to provide a unified message that is supportive of our students and families and helps reassure them that we are doing everything we can for them. On July 20, 2020 Wenden Elementary School Board held a Special Meeting to determine the safest model of instruction for all students in our community. It was decided to implement Distance Learning until it is deemed safe for students to be on site. It is more critical than ever that we provide our community with factual information that is clear, calm, and reassuring.

As you may know, Arizona Department of Education has issued guidance for districts to provide distance learning for all students. Wenden School District along with all other districts in the state, is implementing this model to provide access to grade-level learning and extend support from school staff to students and families. While distance learning will not replace the complete school experience, it will provide an important anchor of care, connection, and continuity of learning during a school closure.

Distance learning is a model for teaching and learning in which the teacher and student are not in the same location. While it may include online learning, it does not require it.

Key elements of distance learning include:

- Ensuring safety, belonging and mental health as a foundation for learning.
- Partnering with parents, families, and caregivers; centering equity in all outreach and communication efforts with parents, families and caregivers.
- Establishing routines, expectations and priorities to facilitate instruction. Consider the environments and ages of the learners when planning instructional time, activities and connections.
- Ensuring equity and access in all aspects of distance learning.
- Focusing on essential learning, leveraging formative assessment and student assets to inform differentiation and extensions.

- Providing multiple, flexible opportunities for learning. To be most effective, we'll need to establish a variety of learning strategies, educational materials, and modes of communication between our educators, students, and families

Thank you for your care and commitment to ensure a safe and ongoing educational experience for our students. Our district will have a plan in place to implement these guidelines and practices by August 1, 2020 which we will review with you once the plan is finalized for 2020-2021 school year.

You may also navigate through Arizona Department of Education (www.azed.gov) for additional guidance and or resources.

Stay safe,



Gloria Dean
Governing Board Members
Teachers and Staff