



# Santa Maria Middle School

A Fowler Elementary School District School

7250 W. Lower Buckeye Road, Phoenix, AZ 85043 (623) 707-1100 FAX (623) 707-1110

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July 21, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of Santa Maria Middle:

Welcome back to Santa Maria Middle School to all of you as we officially begin the 2021-2022 school year! It has been many months since I last saw most of you in person. I also have missed listening to our students' lively conversations in the classrooms.

I realize that most of you have heard from us from family members and neighbors but have not had the opportunity to meet us in person or visit our campus. This year, school will seem familiar for some and, at the same time, different. We will do whatever we need to support each other to identify what works and improve what doesn't. I am looking forward to a year of joy, health and safety, communication, learning, and collaboration. We have many things to look forward to!

We will see changes in many things this year, beginning with different schedules and routines in our school and new ways of interacting with each other. I want to assure you that we have spent several weeks planning for your return and establishing safety and health guidelines to ensure the best possible experience for you while we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all had to learn, to some extent, how to deal with uncertainty. However, given that we have built strong relationships, and have an outstanding staff and school community at Santa Maria Middle School, we will work together through whatever comes our way.

Below there is some important information that you need to be aware of:

**First Day of School:** Monday, August 2, 2021.

**Schools Hours:** 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Early release every Thursday at 2:15 PM.

**Open House:**

Option #1: Video Recording- Available on Wednesday, July 28, 2021 after 5 P.M. Your child's homeroom teacher will email you the link.

Option #2: In-Person- Thursday, July 29, 2021. Please make sure ONLY one parent and the student is present. Please make sure you come to the assigned time by last name. The meetings need to end on time since we need to make sure areas are sanitized.

4:00- 4:45 PM (Last names A-H)

5:00-5:45 PM (Last names I-P)

6:00-6:45 PM (Last names Q-Z)

**Supply List:** This year, our district is allocating elementary and secondary school emergency relief (ESSER) funds to provide these materials to each school site. Parents will not need to provide these school supplies for their children. We are grateful for the continued support, generosity, and patience that our families have demonstrated during these challenging times. We look forward to a smooth transition to the 2021-2022 school year!

Principal  
Desiree Castillo

Assistant Principal  
Christopher Gooden

**Backpacks:** Backpacks are allowed. Students will need to keep their belongings for their own use in their backpacks. No sharing of materials.

**Uniforms:** Policy is attached.

**Returning Students:** Registration packet for Returning students is attached. This packet needs to be completed before the student starts school on August 2, 2021. You can either pick up a packet between 8:00 AM-4:00 PM or print the attachment below and drop it off during the same times mentioned above.

**Transportation:** New routes will be available on Wednesday, July 29, 2021. Please use the following link to access:  
<https://www.fesd.org/Transportation>

**Safety Protocols:** Temperatures for staff, students and visitors will be taken before entering campus. Classrooms, bathrooms and common areas will be sanitized periodically during the school day, and we will make our best efforts to keep students socially distanced. Masks will be OPTIONAL but highly recommended.

From now, all school information will be emailed to you. If you have not provided an email address to the school office, please give us a call to update your information at 623-707-1100. Teachers will inform you about their own class Dojo or Remind sign-ups for classroom communication.

Together, as Santa Maria Middle School staff, students and families, we will make the school a safe and healthy place for students to thrive. We want students to feel safe and cared for, and we want parents and families to feel the same. We are happy to be back.

*Desiree Castillo*  
Principal  
Santa Maria Middle School

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