

BULLDOG BARKS

Santa Maria Middle School

Attitude + Attendance + Achievement = Success

HYBRID MODEL

- Five days per week, 1/2 day session (three hours in a.m. or p.m.)
- Two-hour (elementary), three-hours (middle) will be required daily for distance learning
- Technology devices will be provided, possibly Internet connectivity
- Weekly meal boxes are available to all families
- Students will attend daily, unless ill
- Grades will be based on homework, participation, assignment completion, and exams
- Follow classroom rules; be on time and prepared for class
- Show respect for others and school property
- Keep social distancing
- Wash hands often per CDC
- Keep mask covering on unless safe to remove it.

From The Principal's Desk

I would like to reassure you that our district is committed to our model of hybrid learning, and at Santa Maria Middle School the safety of our students and staff is our priority. Throughout this pandemic, we have ensured that our decision making is guided by the public health metrics made available by both Maricopa County and the Arizona Department of Health Services. We will continue to be guided by these metrics, and we hope we can consider a hybrid learning environment for your student soon. While we can't be certain what the future holds, we are committed to continuing in our current model online until the metrics dictate otherwise and continuing to ask our families and community to be mindful of the safety measures that protect us all. Fowler Elementary School District remains committed to implementing and following the safety measures in our health mitigation plan to protect students and staff from exposure to COVID-19. We feel that the adherence to this plan is what will allow us to have students attend in-person learning. Our protocols will include reminding students and staff to stay home when they are sick and mandating wearing face masks. Physical distancing rules will be in place and high-touch surface areas will be disinfected regularly. We will also encourage frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer will be readily available to students and staff.

The hybrid model will require our students to attend either a 3 hour morning or afternoon session in-person. Students will also be required to attend a 3 hour session online at home. For now, ONLY students in special programs or students who do not have access to transportation will be transported. Our Food Service Department will continue to provide weekly food boxes to any family with children under the age of 18. The district encourages all families to participate. **Food boxes can be picked up at SMMS on Monday from 7 AM- 10 AM by the cafeteria.** We will not be providing breakfast or lunch at school with the hybrid model.

During the school day, students will stay in their classrooms. The teachers will rotate classrooms. Everyone will wear masks inside the school boundaries. There will be many procedures set up for students to maintain social distancing while coming or leaving the school grounds.

I also would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday. Take care!

Mrs. Castillo

Included with this newsletter is the Covid-19 Parental Acknowledgement and Disclosure Document. If you would like your child to return to in-person hybrid classes, once it is safe, then you must sign and return this document. You will need to complete a form for each child that attends our school. We will start collecting these forms now, to ensure we have one for each student prior to returning to in-person. The "acknowledgment" is required by our Insurance Company and simply acknowledges that we all have to do our part to stay safe during this pandemic.

Fowler Elementary
School District
Percent Positivity
Weekly Updates

Benchmark Data Reported
Thursday, November 19, 2020

Cases Per 100K People

193.194

Percent Positivity

12.37%

Covid-like Illness

5.03%

Overall Risk Level:

Substantial

Recommended Learning
Scenario:

Virtual w/onsite support

Benchmark Data Reported
Thursday, November 12, 2020

Cases Per 100K People

133.95

Percent Positivity

11.38%

Covid-like Illness

4%

Overall Risk Level:

Substantial

Recommended Learning
Scenario:

Virtual w/onsite support

MAKING THE BEST OF OUR VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Gary Willow: When I started working with special needs students, I quickly realized I did not just want to be a good teacher, I had to be a GREAT Teacher—I had to become a master teacher—a Legend. I could not hold back. I can think of teaching none other than the student who needs a different approach to learning. My goal is that every student will gain a passion for school and a passion to continue learning.

Servicing students with an IEP is challenging in the Virtual World, but I have built a team to meet those needs. To use an analogy; I am the doctor and my instructional assistants are the nurses. I evaluate what the student needs and provide the care with the help from the nurses, the instructional assistants.

My team provides breakout Google Meets classrooms throughout the instructional day and Tipping Point Tutoring (after school tutoring for all students). The virtual classroom is different, but for many of the special needs students, it is a way to level the playing field, as everyone looks the same online.

Mr. Clay Dawson: What I am doing to ensure the best of Virtual learning is to always do my best to show up with a great attitude. I truly believe our students are a reflection of what we show and if we show them that we can rise over this then they can be just as strong as us. I love checking on the kids well being to make sure that I make sure that they are doing well before proceeding on. When you have a kid in the class you can spot right away if something is wrong and be able to fix it. Being online it is easier for kids to hide how they feel so getting them out of their shells is key. I like to create a positive environment but also open so the kids know they can be themselves and it is as safe environment as it would be in my class physically. With whatever we do it is important to try our best to get the best out of our kids.

Metrics/Benchmarks for Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction

Metrics/Benchmarks for safely returning to in-person instruction have been set by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). The metrics/benchmarks are:

*Two weeks below 100 cases per 100,000 (not including the current week).

*Two weeks with percent positivity is less than 7% (not including the current week).

*Two weeks with hospital visits due to COVID-like illness below 10%.

The recommended learning scenario for each risk level is:

*Virtual with onsite support is the recommended learning scenario for substantial risk level (red).

*Hybrid is the recommended learning scenario for the moderate risk level (yellow).

*Traditional is the recommended learning scenario for the minimal risk level (green).

ADHS recommends that schools or school districts meet all three benchmarks at the county level in the moderate or minimal transmission category for two weeks in order to begin hybrid (in-person) learning. To move from a virtual to an in-person learning scenario, it is recommended that schools wait until there is a <7% (less than 7%) positivity in their area for two consecutive weeks of data.