

BULLDOG BARKS

Santa Maria Middle School

Attitude + Attendance + Achievement = Success

Parents and teachers play an important role in educating our students in the facts about Covid 19. Here are some guidelines gathered by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Teach the five steps for handwashing:

Wet hands with safe, running water

Apply enough soap to cover wet hands

Scrub all surfaces of the hands-including back of hands, between fingers and under nails for at least 20 seconds.

Rinse thoroughly with running water.

Dry hands with a clean cloth or single-use paper towel.

Did you know? Cold water and warm water are equally effective at killing germs and viruses--as long as you use soap!

Encourage social distancing by:

Avoid the 3Cs: spaces that are closed, crowded or involve close contact.

Meet people outside.

Avoid crowded indoor spaces.

Wear a mask.



From The Principal's Desk

Who could have imagined that Covid-19 would be considered a pandemic? Looking back 8 months ago, I would have not guessed schools, restaurants, stores and movie theaters would have to close. I could not believe we had to rush to stores to purchase basic need items such as food, toilet paper, and medicine. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended that we had to minimize our social interactions, wash our hands and wear masks to keep safe. Most of us understood social distancing as not seeing our loved ones, but maybe it would have been better to think about physical distancing instead. Many people distanced themselves from others and that was not healthy. We should distance ourselves physically from others that could be sick or have the probability of getting sick, as the virus is transmitted through droplets in the air when a person breathes, talks, coughs or sneezes. These droplets enter the eyes, nose or mouth of people nearby. If you have a mask, wash your hands and stay at least 6 feet away, it is likely that these droplets will fall on the ground and won't reach another person. It is possible that people that are contagious and don't have symptoms can be nearby so it is best for you to keep your distance. However, we can continue socializing. You don't need to feel lonely or excluded. There are ways we can stay connected, for example: video chats, exercise in the park, go for walks and send emails or letters to loved ones. We take care of each other by wearing a mask, washing our hand thoroughly and keeping physical distance. Take care and be safe.

Mrs. Castillo

Guidelines with regards to masks

Do not use mask for more than a day. Treat it like underwear.

If reusable, wash it with soap and water.

Do not touch the outside of your mask.

Benchmark Data Reported Thursday, October 15, 2020

Cases Per 100K People

61.82%

Percent Positivity

9.66%

Covid-like Illness

3%

Overall Risk Level:

Substantial

Recommended Learning Scenario:

Virtual w/onsite support

Benchmark Data Reported Thursday, October 8, 2020

Cases Per 100K People

56.67

Percent Positivity

12.09%

Covid-like Illness

2%

Overall Risk Level:

Substantial

Recommended Learning Scenario:

Virtual w/onsite support

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-



MAKING THE BEST OF OUR VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



MR. BORUNDA: Online learning has been a good experience, overall. I have wonderful students, who work hard and show up every day, ready to learn. In addition, I have a very strong, organized team of teachers who communicate extremely well and support each other greatly. My administration is responsive and supportive through this transition, which is a great asset. I consider myself fortunate for having these advantages. Of course, I am missing the in-person interaction that I normally enjoy in my classroom. Learning new technology was tough, especially since I'm an "old-school" "pencil and paper" sort of teacher. Adapting has made me a stronger teacher. There are things I really miss, such as making jokes with students, helping them one-on-one, and all of the extracurricular activities that we have. Luckily, my students this year have a great attitude about learning, and loving parents who support them every way they can. This has been a difficult year, but I am confident that we can face any challenge.

MS. LEMANSKI: As a resource teacher, I like to ensure that students are on track and receive additional support for clarification on their classwork. While the students are learning remotely, I'm able to work alongside them and see if they need any help along the way. If students need small group or individual help, I am able to work with them in a break out room to help them with their work. I can see their screen using LightSpeed to see their process throughout their assignment. I am also able to share my screen to help them find answers, follow along, learn strategies, and identify key terms to be able to work more individually when class is over. I also teach an academic enrichment course where students are able to work on previous classwork, ask for help, or work on websites that help them on their math, language arts, and science skills. Even though we are unable to be in person, we are still there to help our



students any way we can.

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).

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.