



FOWLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 45

1617 S. 67th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85043

Phone: (623) 707-4500

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www.fesd.org

July 31, 2020

Francisca Montoya
Governing Board
President

Peggy Eastburn
Governing Board
Clerk

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Governing Board
Member

Marvene Lobato
Superintendent

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Business Services

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Academic Services

Marco Ruiz
Curriculum

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Vince Medina
Early Childhood

Rose Ann Wastjel
Student Services

Enoch Davis
Support Services

Lane Blake
Technology

Leticia Valenzuela
Transportation

Parents and Guardians,

I'm sending positive thoughts to everyone during this difficult time. The policies and procedures in the field of education continue to change on what seems to be a daily basis. I want to share with you what our school district is planning and hope that we can work together.

The first day of school for all students, preschool through eighth grade is Monday, August 17th. We will not be able to start "in-person" classes on this date. All students will be receiving instruction online through October 9th. The Governor issued an Executive Order 2020-51 on Thursday, July 23rd. He ordered the Arizona Department of Health to develop public health benchmarks for the safe return of in-person, teacher-led classroom instruction, no later than August 7, 2020. School districts must then consider these recommendations and consult with the Maricopa County Health Department to determine when in-person, teacher-led classroom instruction can safely be made available. School districts must also have a mitigation plan prior to opening a school building for on-site support services or in-person instruction. The Executive Order also states that school districts shall begin offering free on-site learning opportunities and support services for students who need a place to go during the school day.

Every student in need of a Chromebook is eligible to have one issued to them, and signed out to their parent/guardian. School principals will be forwarding information regarding the schedules for pick up. They will also share your child's teacher and the date and time of the scheduled virtual "Meet the Teacher" event.

We have approximately 1,500 students, kindergarten through eighth grade, that will be attending the FESD - Virtual Academy. Mr. Chad Ostrom is the Virtual Academy Principal. He can be reached at 623-707-2400 or costrom@fesd.org. Parents who chose for their child to attend online full-time, will pick up their Chromebook from their home school. No student will be denied attending the FESD - Virtual Academy. Students who did not register by the deadline of July 22nd, will be registered with the Virtual Academy or in the hybrid platform.

Principals have been working diligently, trying to accommodate choices made by parents who selected a form of "in-person" instruction. After measuring classrooms to abide by the social distancing requirements; and removing excess furniture, many of our classrooms can house an average of 12 students. It became clear that we would be able to service more students through the hybrid model than the full-day model. We can service twice as many students through the hybrid model. This means students would receive 3 hours of instruction in core subjects, in-person, then receive an additional two hours of instruction at home. Principals are doing their very best to honor the first and second choices made by parents for their children.



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Our school district is thankful for the “Champions Program” that was in place last year at Sun Canyon Elementary. Last year they provided before and after school care for students. We are partnering with Champions to provide free on-site learning opportunities starting Monday, August 17th. If you need a place for your child to go until we start “in-person” instruction, this is one choice you have as a parent. There is no cost. Parents are responsible for dropping off and picking up your child for this program. It will be housed at Sun Canyon Elementary because licensing through the Department of Health is a requirement. The hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are eligible to attend. Our students will be fed breakfast and lunch. The Governor’s Executive Order states that students in the following categories will be prioritized for free, on-site learning opportunities: free or reduced-price lunch programs, special education students, English language learners and those in the care of the Department of Child Safety or foster care. Schools must contact the parents of these specific students. This on-site learning opportunity is free and available until our hybrid model can start safely. When the hybrid model starts, Champions will provide before and after school care for students, with fees. If you are interested in learning more about Champions or to register your child, please look online at www.discoverchampions.com.

Our school district is partnering with Healthy Verify to create our procedures that everyone (staff members, students, parents/guardians and community members) will follow to reduce the chances of diseases spreading. Once our procedures have been finalized; Healthy Verify in partnership with our school district, will host two virtual town hall meetings, one in English and one in Spanish, for parents/guardians, staff and the community to attend. These procedures will be a major component of our mitigation plan that is mandatory prior to opening our school buildings for in-person instruction. You may find more information about Healthy Verify on their website, www.healthyverify.com.

In closing, I want to reiterate that the first day of school is Monday, August 17th. All students will be participating in online instruction. The date for in-person instruction to start will be no earlier than Monday, October 19th. We will be posting resources on our website for parents to access internet service for as low as \$10 a month, based on income eligibility. Our school district will be leasing equipment to families for internet services for \$10 a month. You may call Lisa Valencia, 623-707-4513, to be placed on a list for those needing to lease equipment from the school district for internet service. The lease through the school district is not based on income eligibility. Please know that our school district is committed to providing structured learning for our students.

Respectfully,

Marvene Lobato, Ed.D.
Superintendent