

ACORN MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

CHILDREN FIRST, ALWAYS

August 10th, 2020

RE: School Re-opening Update

Dear Students and Families,

Here at Acorn Montessori Charter School, the safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority. This has been a difficult time for all members of our school community as well as the community that surrounds us. The Arizona Department of Education, The Arizona Health department, and county health departments and districts have been collaborating to determine the best way to open school while protecting everyone's health and safety during this pandemic.

Thank you for your patience as we evaluated the recently released COVID -19 metrics for safely returning to teacher-led instruction in schools. The Arizona Department of Health and Safety benchmarks related to the re-opening of in person schools state that it is currently unsafe to reopen schools in Yavapai County (See attached metrics and checklist).

In order to protect the safety of our students, staff, and families, Acorn Montessori Charter Schools must follow the benchmarks and guidelines provided and will continue virtual distance learning through October 9th, which is the end of the first quarter. We aim to allow students to return to in-person teacher led instruction following Fall Break which is October 12-16. This decision will allow students, their families, and educators the opportunity to commit to distance learning and prepare accordingly for a fully immersed, engaging, and academic virtual program beyond the initial two weeks originally planned.

Depending upon the climate of COVID-19 in Yavapai County, our in-person return date may be modified and reevaluated based on the data from the Health department which is reported to schools every two weeks. It is our goal to welcome students back on our campuses as soon as possible, and we will do so as soon as it is deemed safe for all our students and staff.

We understand the challenge this extended school closure has created. We realize that some of our students may require additional support during the day and we are planning to provide care for students that are identified as in need of this service. In order to adequately plan for a safe opportunity for on-site support of distance learning only, you must complete the application that has been emailed to you and return it by Wednesday, August 12th.

We will continue to communicate with you regarding any changes or plans moving forward and will do everything within our power to help support instruction. We appreciate your support and understanding during this unprecedented time. Let's continue to work together to make this the best year possible for our students!

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