



ACORN MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

CHILDREN FIRST, ALWAYS

Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence

November 20th, 2020

Dear Acorn Families,

As you are aware, Yavapai County is experiencing a Covid-19 surge. The surge is getting more severe every week. As of Friday, November 20th, Yavapai County Health Department is reporting a percent positivity at 16.2% and Arizona Department of Health is reporting 133 cases out of 100,000. Both numbers are considered to be in the substantial category for significant community spread. Acorn's mitigation plan has stated that when **one** criterion meets significant spread, we will likely move to distance learning based on the health recommendations of the health department. We will always do our best to protect our students, staff, and community.

Acorn prides itself on stringent mitigation protocols and we have been able to keep Covid cases from spreading throughout our schools up to this point. We know that despite all efforts at school, we need support from our community in order to slow the spread of Covid-19 and keep the schools open in person. We have seen positive cases amongst our students' families that are all linked to community spread. These cases have increased substantially in the last few weeks. In addition, Acorn has significantly increased our staffing and health resources, however even with the added staff, all local schools are struggling to have enough teachers on any given day to remain open. This is compounded by the lack of testing in the schools and in our community.

We know that Thanksgiving is historically a time to gather in groups indoors. With the substantial spread throughout our community partnered with a holiday, **Acorn will be moving all students to distance learning for one week beginning on Monday, November 30th, 2020. We intend to return on Monday, December 7th, 2020.** We will continue to monitor the data and should there be a significant reduction in the community spread, we will re-assess. During the distance period, Acorn students are still expected to log on and participate in the virtual classroom. Participation is necessary for promotion to the next grade level. Acorn has an amazing teacher led distance program and we know our students can still be successful during the distance time. During the on-campus closure, breakfasts and lunches will continue to be offered at the drive thru pick up location at main campus.

We at Acorn want our students to be in the classroom, but we need your help to slow the spread. Remember, stay home when you are sick, wash your hands often, wear a mask when in any public place, social distance, and avoid large gatherings. Thank you for your support while we work to ensure the health and safety of our Acorn family.

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