

Dear Parents,

I appreciate your support and patience throughout the summer and even now as we are about to embark upon the fall season. Our commitment to educate, encourage, and empower your scholars has not and will not change. As an educational institution that serves many different families and situations, it is near impossible to meet everyone's needs exactly. However, we believe that the "scholar's first" should be what guides our decision making. With that being said, I want to inform you all of the decisions we have made in regard to the newly published Arizona Department of Education Reopening Plan and Benchmarks.

The Board of Grande Innovation Academy has decided that we will not be opening for in-person learning on August 17th, as we had originally planned. However, we do have a plan that will hopefully meet our community's needs. We did not make this decision lightly, but we are seeking to make the best-informed decision. The Board will reconvene on August 17th to look at the latest data being provided by the state.

The ADE Plan for Reopening takes into account the following three benchmarks: Cases, Percent Positivity, COVID-like Illness. All of these benchmarks will be assessed every two weeks to see if they have been met. The Health Department encourages there to be two weeks below 100 cases per 100,000 (not including the current week), two weeks with percent positivity below 7% (not including the current week), and lastly, two weeks with hospital visits due to COVID-like illness below 10%. Last week, the percent positive number the benchmarks will be evaluated on August 13th and August 20th.

Our target opening date is August 24th. Please contact me (pmesser@giaowlsmail.com) with important policy or procedural questions, especially concerning COVID, as social media posts can get lost, go unanswered, spread confusion, fear, or frustration.

The AZ Department of Education has given schools permission to be open for on-site learning due to hardships. This includes parents working outside the home, Special Education services, and ELL instruction. If this describes your situation ***GIA will be open for on-site learning August 17th, Monday- Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.***

Teachers will be contacting you this week, please answer your phone or respond to teachers as quickly as possible concerning attendance and your support needs. If your scholar will be on campus for during the lunch hours, they will need to bring their own meal. Masks are required while on campus.

Our goal is to be able to open with as many preventative measures as possible in order to be able to *remain* open. As was already stated our scholars would be wearing face coverings, except for lunch and outside play. We will be adjusting our lunch procedures to ensure scholars are remaining safe while uncovered during their lunchtime. With that in mind, the following list outlines what we will be doing to further meet our goal of a safe and successful reopening:

- ***Facial recognition and temperature taking kiosks***
- ***Hand sanitizing stations in every classroom***
- ***Proper sanitation and hygiene practices reviewed daily***
- ***Classrooms deep-cleaned daily***
- ***High touch surfaces sanitized throughout the day***
- ***Effective Communication***
- ***Face coverings when social distancing is not possible***
- ***Education via distance learning***

In order for us to meet our goals, we will need each family to commit to take personal responsibility for their families health and well-being. As a school, we can implement as many precautions and policies as possible, but without adherence to those policies by each member of our school community, we will not have a successful reopening. We will do our part, and we ask that parents and guardians do the following:

- ***Be ready to adjust and adapt as we sort through the consistent changes***
- ***Effectively communicate***
- ***Practice proper sanitation and proper usage of face covering***
- ***Adhere to all safety guidelines***
- ***Encourage your scholar to social distance when possible***
- ***Have a positive attitude***

GIA will continue with our current practices of daily attendance checks and distance learning assignments. As always, I will be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you might have. Please check your email, our website, and Facebook page for updates. Thank you again for your patience and support as we seek to serve our wonderful school community.

Thank you for your support.

Patty

