June 17, 2020

Dear Flowing Wells Families,

I hope this letter finds your family well and that you have found some peace during this pandemic. As the traditional summer vacation is stretching toward the monsoon season, we are actively planning for school to resume in August. You may have heard or read that Arizona Governor Ducey has publicly announced school will open this fall. I can share that all of the district staff are hopeful students can safely return to campus. We absolutely miss your children and cannot wait to once again create active learning environments on campus.

We have been holding regular meetings with staff to plan for several possible scenarios. Understanding many issues are still being resolved, we can confidently share there will be options for you to consider. As of today, the District hopes to offer in-class instruction for all students who want to attend school on campus. We understand some families will not be comfortable returning to campus in August. To meet this need, Flowing Wells Digital Campus (FWDC) will offer a complete online educational program supported by Flowing Wells staff in grades Kindergarten through 12. FWDC is a comprehensive educational program that can be offered to meet any scheduling requirement of your family. FWDC will offer instructional lessons, teacher interaction and traditional assessments. Students in grades 9-12 can earn credits towards graduation. Depending on public health guidance, Flowing Wells is also prepared to offer online instruction by our classroom teachers during the traditional school day. In this model, all students would be at home receiving daily instruction until such conditions are established for students to return to school sites. A final configuration is often referred to as a hybrid model because it seeks to create on-campus learning and at-home activities simultaneously. The main goal of the hybrid model is to reduce the number of students on campus at any one time to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19. This is the most complicated model and least desired configuration due to exceptional demands placed on students, families, and staff by students attending school every other day or every other week.

In summary, Flowing Wells will provide the following options for school enrollment in the fall:

- Flowing Wells Digital Campus to access online education around any home schedule for Kindergarten through 12 grade.
- If safety protocols can be met, on-campus instruction for all students following health department guidelines.
- If safety protocols cannot be met for all students returning, at-home instruction or a hybrid model with half the students attending some days and the other half of students attending other days.

I would like to try to address a few common questions below. I also encourage you to visit the Flowing Wells District website for more information and to email us questions through our Communication Corner on the webpage.

**Will the District offer packets of work like last spring?** No. As necessary, the District is moving to an online instructional model to track attendance, monitor student work and provide instructional lessons for students not choosing FWDC.

**What if we need additional technology support to access school online?** The District has purchased computers to check out to students and is securing internet connectivity options for families.

**What is the difference between FWDC and online instruction from classroom teachers?** FWDC offers instructional lessons that can be accessed at any time. Online instruction from classroom teachers would link your child to a specific teacher(s) at your school and instruction would more closely align to the traditional school day.

**When will final decisions be made about school configurations?** This decision will not be finalized until later in July as more guidance is provided by the Health Department, Governor Ducey and the Arizona Department of Education. Important variables will be the community spread of the virus, infection rates, successful mitigation strategies, and hopeful treatments for infections.

Please feel comfortable reaching out to your child’s principal or my office if you have questions. We will be in touch as we have more information. Please remember to check the District webpage for updates. Thank you for choosing Flowing Wells.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Baker, Ed.D
Superintendent