

# *Grand Canyon Unified School District #4*

Dr. Shonny Bria  
Superintendent

Matt Yost  
Principal

Lori Rommel  
Dean of Students

Update on the status of the Grand Canyon schools

Good morning, parents, guardians, students, employees, and friends of Grand Canyon School.

Since the end of the 2019-2020 school year, the administration team and teacher team have met multiple times a week researching, investigating, and collecting data to develop plans for a safe school reopening. Our unwavering goal is to provide a safe environment for students and staff, while providing high-quality educational opportunities. No reopening plan during the COVID-19 pandemic is set in stone, and we expect our current plan to continue to evolve as more information is provided from the scientific community, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS), The Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. (The TRUST-AZ School Legal Counsel) and the Coconino County Health Department.

More details about the GCS reopening plan will be provided soon on the school website. Currently, the website contains:

- 2020-2021 Student Learning Options and Protocols Presentation and Video
- Frequently Asked Questions developed from parent and guardian questions
- Links to Governor's Executive Orders

On July 23, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey, together with Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, released executive order 2020-51 *Arizona: Open for Learning*. Key points of this executive order and subsequent Governor's briefing are:

- AZDHS is being directed to develop school-reopening benchmarks based on public health data to be shared with schools and school boards by August 7, 2020.
- AZ commits to school districts utilizing distance learning models for instruction to be fully funded, as well as a state promise of continuity of pay for all educators.
- Requirements that all districts provide on-site learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations.
- Support of school policies that support safety and student learning, including a statewide requirement for face coverings for teachers, staff, and students over the age of five.

We expect more details to follow from the Governor's Office, and we are working with our partners throughout the state to fully understand the implications of this message. We welcome the additional support and commitments to education by Governor Ducey and Superintendent Hoffman.

Grand Canyon Schools is working steadfastly towards the first day of School, which is rapidly approaching on September 8, 2020. We began online registration last week, on July 20, 2020, and we will continue online registration throughout the month of August and into the new school year. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to register as soon as possible, as this helps us plan our student groupings and teacher assignments. Within this online registration is a description of the three reopening models we are hoping to offer to start the 2020-2021 school year. We request that you provide your preference for enrollment that best fits your student's needs in the online registration document.

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Starting this Tuesday, July 28, 2020, we will begin offering on-site appointments for parents and guardians who need a computer or support completing the online registration. Please call 928.638.2461 to set up an appointment. Also, beginning this Tuesday, the Town of Tusayan will be offering access to computers, by appointment, for online registration at Town Hall. Please call 928.638.9909 to set up an appointment.

Grand Canyon School is committed to open and transparent communication, and to continue and build on this commitment, I will be sharing weekly updates via the school website about school reopening plans, school registration, and school updates. I want to hear from you, and I want to provide you with the opportunity to reach out and ask questions.

My email address is [myost@grandcanyonschool.com](mailto:myost@grandcanyonschool.com). We need your input, we thank you for your support and your understanding in reopening GCS for the 2020-2021 school year, and we value you as part of the Grand Canyon School family.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Yost*, Principal