



LA CIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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7/30/2020

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. This year will again be very different from what we have experienced in the past. We have worked very hard this summer to ensure students are provided with an exceptional on-line experience until we can all return to campus to be together. We miss our students terribly, but are committed to the safety and health of all our students, staff, and family. I know together we can make this “Remote Learning by Necessity” model work. I apologize for the length of this letter, but I know many have been waiting for some answers, and we have just received final clarifications, which creates long letters! Thank you for your patience. The information included is extremely important to your child’s success!

This summer the Blue Ribbon Committee met and made recommendations based on feedback from members of the Amphi community. Based on this feedback we are excited to be able to offer our “Remote Learning by Necessity” model using a single platform, Google Classroom. We also recognize the need for a daily schedule that provides flexibility for students and families as well as opportunities to connect students with teachers. We know that the best place for your child to learn is in the classroom, but until we can provide in-person learning, your child will be provided “live” instruction on a daily basis from La Cima teachers via Zoom.

Attached you will find a copy of our “Remote Learning by Necessity” Bell Schedule. Please know that our focus was to develop a consistent structure for students, teachers, and families so everyone will know what to expect each day. The bell schedule also serves to increase student accountability for being present and engaged in classes, which is critical for student learning. It is my firm belief that participating in the online learning experience provided by La Cima staff will ease the transition when we return to in-person instruction.

- La Cima teachers will be teaching your child/children virtually using Google Classroom as the main platform to communicate curriculum, expectations, daily assignments, and links to the “live” video instruction. Student attendance will also be taken in Google Classroom **every day, every period**. There will be a variety of resources to support student learning including Zoom (video instruction), and ALEKS, a personalized online math tool to support student learning.
- Students will participate in synchronous, asynchronous, and independent learning.
 - Synchronous - live instruction during a scheduled time.
 - Asynchronous - instruction that does not occur in the direct presence of the teacher.
- Each day your child will log in to each class period based on the attached schedule:
 - **Direct Engagement (Synchronous)** - This means your child’s teacher will be teaching the lesson, step by step, just as they would in the classroom. This will be done via Zoom.

Amphitheater High • Canyon del Oro High • Ironwood Ridge High
Amphitheater Middle School • Coronado K-8 School • Cross Middle School • La Cima Middle School • Wilson K-8 School
Copper Creek Elementary • Donaldson Elementary • Harelson Elementary • Holaway Elementary • Innovation Academy • Keeling Elementary
Mesa Verde Elementary • Nash Elementary • Painted Sky Elementary • Prince Elementary • Rio Vista Elementary • Walker Elementary • Rillito Center

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- **Google Classroom Learning/Engagement/Intervention (Asynchronous)** - This means your child is working on the assignments for that class. For example, when students are in the classroom with a teacher, once the teacher has taught the lesson, students have time to implement what they have learned. **Students will login to Google Classroom and check in for attendance (this is a vital step)**. Teachers will be available for questions, but teachers will not be teaching the entire class on live video. Teachers may support students through small group instruction. Teachers will be able to provide interventions for students who may need more help, but those who are able to work faster can do so.
- **Student Independent Work Time (Independent Learning)** - this is time for students to complete assignments, work in groups, conduct their research, etc. without constant, direct support of the teacher. This time allows the teachers an opportunity to see what your child has retained and mastered and what re-teaching needs to occur. Teachers may schedule time with individual or groups of students for additional support. Students will visit each period's Google classroom to sign in for attendance purposes, access assignments and supplemental resources such as ALEKS or other provided site or app to complete assigned work. **Assignment completed during this time will count for attendance.**
- While our modified schedule provides time for teachers to teach and assist students, it also allows students to work at a pace comfortable for them. All students will have sufficient direct instruction, curriculum, and support to meet Arizona State requirements.
- For those unable to attend during a specified time on the schedule, the video of the day's lesson will be available in Google Classroom. Students must still log in for attendance purposes and complete any assigned work.
- Students unable to meet the above expectations should contact their principal to determine if accommodations may be made.

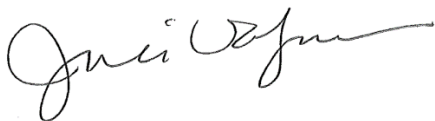
Additional important information:

- There are many materials students need to successfully start the school year. We need to get these distributed to you next week. These include basic school supplies, math books, art supplies, science supplies, student planners, grade trackers, and the code of conduct. We will be doing a drive-through material distribution on August 5-August 7 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in 30-minute increments to ensure safe distancing can be achieved. Please refer to the attached schedule for your specific time of pickup. If you have a child in more than one grade level, you can pick the day that corresponds with one of your children and pick up materials for all of them on the same day. **If none of these dates work, please call 696-6795 or email gespinoza@amphi.com and we will make alternate arrangements with you.**
- Chromebooks are available for students in need. If you have not completed the survey or been in contact with anyone in the office, but need a Chromebook, please call 696-6795 or email gespinoza@amphi.com.
- If you or your child do not remember your login information for parent/student portal, please email jkischer@amphi.com or gespinoza@amphi.com or call 696-6795. This will provide your child with their schedule of classes and which period they have each class, as well as provide you with access to monitor your child(ren)'s grades, missing assignments, attendance, etc.

- **ATTENDANCE MATTERS FOR THIS NEW QUARTER!!** Unlike the “crisis learning” we experienced fourth quarter, this time we have worked hard providing teachers with professional development to create exceptional on-line learning for students. All state requirements and laws for attendance and funding are in place for this quarter. There are no waivers, as were in place the final quarter of last year, so attendance is a priority!!! Please encourage your child to follow the daily schedule provided! Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. It is imperative for your child’s success that they are current with instruction when the time comes for them to return to campus and begin in-person learning.

In conclusion, this year will once again look different, but we are committed to providing our students the best on-line education possible. We appreciate your support, patience, grace, and flexibility in this process. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns. Together we can make this “Remote Learning by Necessity” model a success.

Thank you and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Valenzuela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julie Valenzuela
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