



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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July 21, 2021

Dear Amphitheater Staff and Families:

As we move closer to August 5, which is the first day of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to share a few updates about what you can expect at your Amphitheater District schools.

We are ready for your children. Our teachers, staff and leaders have been training all summer in a variety of areas and have been working on curriculum and programs to help every child rebound from the past 18 months of COVID-impacted education. We know children may need help in certain areas and may need opportunities to accelerate in others. We are ready to meet every need, and we are excited about the potential the upcoming school year brings.

A couple of key notes:

- All schools will be open for full in-person instruction. This is consistent with legislative mandates for the year. However, Amphi Academy Online (our separate and fully online school) will still be available for students in Kindergarten through 12th grade who prefer to continue learning online. While we know most students thrive by being in their classrooms among peers and with their teachers, this is not an absolute truth for all. We have seen some students grow and flourish in the online environment, and we want to continue to support those children with our online program.
- You can find updated information about the District's COVID-19 [mitigation strategies and an FAQ](#) on our website. We hope these resources will answer most questions. The strategies reflect best practices and the evolving science and health guidance provided by local, state and national health offices. Please email answers@amphi.com with other questions you may still have after reviewing that information.
- Masks and vaccines are optional for all staff and students in the coming year, and choices made by individuals *will be respected*. Again, these are issues that are a matter of state law. The legislature passed, and the Governor signed, a bill into law last session which prohibits school districts from requiring masks for anyone on school property or requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for in-person learning.

Amphitheater High School • Canyon del Oro High School • Ironwood Ridge High School
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 • Amphi Academy Online

Amphitheater Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion/religious beliefs, gender, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, citizenship status, marital status, political beliefs/affiliation, disability, home language, family, social or cultural background in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies are handled at 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, Arizona 85705 by David Rucker, Equity & Safety Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator, (520) 696-5164, drucker@amphi.com, or Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services, (520) 696-5230, kmcgraw@amphi.com.

- In Amphitheater, we respect the decisions that families make for themselves and for their children. We are well aware of differences of opinion and differences in interpretation of information that circulates through our community. We ask that everyone continue to respect the decisions of others and come together to support our community's children.
- All of our teachers will be back at work within the next couple of weeks. You can expect to hear from them about class placement, schedules, school supplies, etc. in the first week of August, before school starts on Aug. 5.

As we look forward to the exciting start of the school year, I can't help but take a moment to reflect on the past months that have been so difficult. While I want to keep my focus on the future and all of the potential it brings, I do want to take a moment to thank you.

Thank you to our families for continuing to trust us with your children and their education. I take that trust very seriously, as do all of our teachers and staff.

Thank you to our staff who continue to be dedicated to our children, our families and our District. As we look forward to the road ahead, I am filled with excitement, and I can't wait to see how we all work together to support our students and each other as we lift ourselves into a brighter future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd A. Jaeger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd A. Jaeger, J.D.
Superintendent