



Lulu Walker Elementary School

Christopher Trimble

Principal

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Dear Walker Parents and Guardians,

I want to begin by thanking you all for your support, understanding, and tremendous work as we, as a community, responded to an unprecedented time in our lives. I am extremely proud of the way our Walker Elementary students, parents, staff, and community handled the demands that were brought upon us in the spring, as we continued to educate and feed our students during the most unusual of circumstances. As you know, the issue of returning to school for the 2020-2021 school year has been a topic of much debate and deliberation for several months. During the months of May and June, Amphitheater School District created a Blue Ribbon Task Force made up of district officials, school administrators, teachers, parents, and community members. These individuals were tasked with developing a proposal for how we could best meet the educational, social emotional, and safety needs of our students and families. As I am sure you can imagine, this was an unparalleled challenge.

The committees that were formed under the Blue Ribbon Task Force reviewed feedback from parents and staff regarding instruction during the spring closure, feedback regarding the upcoming school year, and recommendations made by the local, state, and federal school and health departments. From there the committees developed a proposal for reopening schools in August that addressed health and safety, instructional design, transportation, technology, human resource and workplace matters, interscholastics, and community issues. This proposal was presented to the Amphitheater Governing Board on Tuesday, July 14th and was approved during the meeting. The recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Task Force can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.amphi.com/cms/lib/AZ01901095/Centricity/Domain/4736/Blue%20Ribbon%20Recommendation.s.pdf> or by visiting the Amphitheater School District web page.

The decision of when to begin the 2020-2021 school year was made in consideration of the health-related concerns of the COVID-19 virus and the educational needs of our students and community. The decision was made to begin the 2020-2021 school year remotely for all students on **August 10th**. The decision to begin the year remotely was based on the delay in in-person instruction issued by the Governor and current number of COVID-19 cases in the community. As a district and school, we understand the importance in having our students return to school for in-person learning. The district has set a target date for a return to in-person learning on Tuesday, September 8th. This start date will be contingent on the level of COVID-19 cases in the community and recommendations from the health department.

When school begins on August 10th students will be provided instruction in one of two ways. This will be determined by the decision a students' family makes regarding instruction for the year. Families will have two choices for the school year, in-person instruction or online learning by choice.

Amphitheater High • Canyon del Oro High • Ironwood Ridge High
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In-Person Instruction

Students who will return to school for in-person instruction once students can return in person to school, will start with the Online By Necessity Model for Instruction. Students will receive instruction from their classroom teacher during this time. Students in grades K-1 will be working on the See Saw platform online with their teacher and students in grades 2-5 will be on the Google classroom platform. Like in the spring, students in grades K-1 will be working on Reading and Math/Science on the Waterford program, while students in grades 2-5 will be working on i-Ready Reading and Math. What is different from the spring is the expectation that teachers will have live instruction with students each day. As part of this, students will engage in social emotional lessons each day. Students will also have PE, Music, and Art lessons each week. For more information about Online by Necessity Model, please visit <https://www.amphi.com/Page/21782> . Those students that cannot access the internet will be provided with hard copy materials. Classroom teacher will be making regular contact with these students as well.

To read information about structure of in-person instruction and safety procedures that will be in place, please visit. <https://www.amphi.com/Page/21783>. Further detail for Walker specific procedures will be coming soon.

If you would like to your child(ren) to return to in-person instruction when students can return to Walker in person, you do not need to take any additional steps as long as you have submitted registration paperwork.

Online Learning by Choice

Those students that will participate in the online learning for the 2020-2021 school year, will be enrolled into the Amphi Academy. Students will receive online instruction via a digital platform from an Amphitheater teacher who is trained in the learning platform. The district is currently finalizing this program and will provide information shortly about it. More information can be found at <https://www.amphi.com/Page/21784> .

If you would like your child to participate in the Online Learning by Choice option for the upcoming school year, please visit <https://www.amphi.com/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=172> to indicate this choice. More information will be provide on how to register within a few days of completing the form. It is important that you still register your child at Walker, prior to enrolling into the Amphi Academy.

Students who choose one model can switch to another by consulting with their schools or teachers. This consultation will help ensure transitions are as smooth as possible. Students who choose the Online by Request learning model will retain their spots at Walker for the 2020-2021 school year in the event they wish to return in person at some point in the year.

Chromebooks

In order to begin the year, it is important that students have technology access. Therefore, Walker elementary will be providing chromebooks to families once again to support student learning from home. Chromebook distribution will begin the week of July 26th. Several days and times will be offered for families to access this technology. To ensure that we have adequate technology for families, a survey has been created by the district. This survey has been sent to all families. If you did not receive this survey or have not had a chance to complete it, please visit the following link as soon as possible: [https://amphi.parentlink.net/main/survey?rx=Z6eaeLpiN2dpdbGibeYi&ry=X1.5ZYYPtwX6moWuA\\$M1&ro](https://amphi.parentlink.net/main/survey?rx=Z6eaeLpiN2dpdbGibeYi&ry=X1.5ZYYPtwX6moWuA$M1&ro)

[=IXcC6dNFy1&rn=&l=1](#) . More information will be coming next week on how to sign up to receive a chromebook from Walker and the specific dates and times they can be picked up.

We are very aware as a school that decisions regarding the upcoming school year are very difficult for families. We will do everything that we can to continue to offer our community the best academic options. If you have any questions regarding the two models of instruction for the beginning of the school year, please contact me at ctrimble@amphi.com or 696-6517. We look forward to seeing all of our Walker students and families as soon as possible. Stay safe.

Christopher Trimble
Principal