



OWENS-WHITNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6

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Governing Board:
Clay Tyree, President
Frank Dazzo, Member
April Drane, Member

July 27, 2020

Dear O-W Parents and Students,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as you plan for the upcoming school year.

We have received numerous questions regarding Governor Ducey's latest press conference and Executive Order regarding the reopening of schools. This is now the 3rd Executive Order on school re-openings and hopefully the last as time is running short in order for staff and families to prepare. Please follow the link: https://azgovernor.gov/sites/default/files/open_for_learning.pdf to the Governor's plan but I will summarize the main points.

The new order eliminated a specific date for physically returning to school and calls for the use of COVID metrics and local data for determining when it is safe to return. It also requires the use of masks by students and staff. Exceptions will be made for students while outdoors or when physical distancing is possible.

The Department of Education and Department of Health Services will provide guidelines by August 7th that local schools and county health officials in consultation will use to determine when in-person instruction can begin. On August 17th, if local metrics are within a range considered to be safe, schools statewide may return to brick and mortar instruction. Although the order calls for reviewing metrics and consulting with county health officials the final decision to reopen rests with the District.

Owens-Whitney School District's opening plan will be finalized and approved at the Regular Governing Board Meeting on August 4th. The District is planning to begin school using a Distance Learning Model on Monday, August 17th unless the local health metrics allow in-person classes to begin. It is important to remember that Distance Learning and In-Person Instruction decisions will be impacted by trends in local COVID data over the next several weeks and possibly longer.

We will be communicating as necessary to provide you with ample time to prepare for these changes.

Thanks for your patience and understanding in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bullington