

Dear Destiny Families,

Thank you for your assistance in getting the 20-21 school year started through distance learning. The understanding and grace that you have extended during these trying times has been much appreciated. It has been wonderful to reconnect with our students and we look forward to teaching them on campus as soon as it is safe to do so.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 guidelines released by the Arizona Department of Health last Thursday, August 6th, do not allow us to educate our students in person at this time. The Health Department has indicated that if things continue to improve, we may be able to begin on-site instruction in four to six weeks. That is their best guess based on current Covid-19 trends, but no one knows for sure how soon Gila County will meet the standards for reopening. The Arizona Department of Health updates their data every Thursday. When our county meets the school reopening guidelines and Gila County Health and Emergency Management gives us the okay to reopen, we will bring the students back to campus. At that time, you will be able to choose whether your students return to the school or continue distance learning. Thank you for your time and for your ongoing patience while we implement strong remote learning and back-to-campus plans.

FAQ

When does the 20/21 school year start?

- The 20/21 school year began through distance learning on August 4, 2020.
- In-person learning will hopefully begin in a few weeks if Gila County meets the Arizona Department of Health guidelines for school reopening and Gila County Health and Emergency Management says that it is okay.
- Beginning August 17, services and instruction will be given on campus to special needs students if their needs cannot be met through the distance learning model. Our Special Education Director, Mrs. Palmer, will be contacting each family of our special needs students individually to determine what is appropriate.
- Beginning August 17, we will also be making childcare available to any Destiny student who does not have a safe place to be during school hours. This is not in-person instruction and the students will be under the supervision of a para-professional. They will continue to receive all instruction through distance learning. Transportation will not be provided. Governor Ducey has issued an order that masks must be worn by everyone in the state while they are in school buildings.

What does remote learning look like?

These are the elements of remote learning:

- Direct instruction is presented to the students through Zoom meetings.
- Feedback is given to students regularly throughout the week.
- The structure of instruction parallels typical in-person instruction with direct instruction, guided practice, independent practice, checks for understanding, and student feedback as the framework components.

- Formative assessments are administered.
- Grades based on mastery of the standards are assigned.

What does direct instruction look like for remote learning?

Using Zoom, teachers provide direct instruction every day.

- Students are expected to join their class for instruction on Zoom.
- Students are able to engage with the teacher on Zoom throughout instructional day.

What does a student's schedule for direct instruction look like?

Zoom meetings will begin promptly at 8:00 am Monday through Thursday. After direct instruction students will be assigned work to do independently and directed when to return to the meeting. Proof of attendance will be Zoom participation, completion of all work, or parent verification that the student has worked for required number of hours.

What does the rest of the instructional day look like?

- Teachers will be accessible to students for feedback via Zoom video conferencing, phone, and email throughout the instructional day.
- Teachers will be accessible to parents via phone and email.
- Teachers will be reaching out to students who are not engaging, and to their parents.

What is the structure of instruction for remote learning?

- **Learning Objective-** The learning target for the instruction.
- **Direct instruction-** Content that is directly taught during the lesson.
- **Guided Practice-** Student practice with support.
- **Independent Practice-** Student practice that supports growth and demonstrates a level of mastery.
- **Check for understanding-** Checking that growth has occurred.

How will we formally assess remote learning?

- Weekly formative assessments will be administered.
- Benchmarks will be administered.

What is the grading structure for remote learning?

It is no different than the grading structure for on-site learning.

What are the learning options when students return to campus?

Parents have two options for the 20/21 school year:

On Campus Learning on the campus of Destiny School

- This model is the traditional in-person model.
- Enhanced safety measures are in place.
- Students attend physical school four days a week.
- Standards are taught to mastery in all content areas.
- Students are given mastery grades based on the grade level standards.
- Enrich classes are a part of the daily schedule.

- Formatives, Benchmarks, AIMS, and AZM2 state testing are administered.
- Extracurricular activities and athletics will be phased in when allowed.

On-line

- Lessons are taught remotely and daily interaction is required through Zoom.
- Standards are taught to mastery in LA, Math, Social Studies, and Science delivered through Zoom and internet-based curriculum.
- Students are given mastery grades based on the grade level standards.
- Students participate in classes close to real time. Classwork is submitted the date it is assigned. Homework is submitted on its due date.
- Students are enrolled as Destiny students and Destiny teachers are their teacher of record.
- Students follow the same curriculum as on campus learning at the same pace, the same rigor, and the same sequence.
- Formatives, Benchmarks, AIMS, and AZM2 state testing are administered.
- The school will supply a Chromebook to students, if needed. An internet connection is required to participate in on-line school.
- Paper packets will also be given to students in the lower grades.
- Students may not spend part of the day at school or attend extracurricular activities.
- Students who move back into On Campus Learning from On-line learning will resume their schedule in person. They do not lose their spot and do not need to re-enroll.

Will masks be required for on campus learning?

Governor Ducey has issued an executive order requiring face coverings in all Arizona school buildings at this time. Absent this requirement in the future, it is our intent to do the following:

- Create a cultural norm that adults and students will wear face coverings when physical distancing is not possible.
- Ask that parents provide a face covering for their student. If a student comes to school without a face covering, one will be provided.
- Consider individual exemptions on a case by case basis.
- All classrooms have necessary physical distancing and plexiglass learning stations have been set up for each student.
- Students will not be required to wear a face covering at lunch, at recess, or in any instructional spaces where physical distancing is possible.

How will the campus be sanitized?

Restrooms

- Sanitize (removing contaminants) morning, midday, and high usage times.
- Sanitize (removing contaminants) before and after lunches.
- Cleaning (removing residue) will occur daily.

Drinking Fountains

- Drinking fountains closed.
- We are setting up water bottle filling stations.
- We ask that students bring a large, filled water bottle each day with their name clearly marked.
- Each classroom will have a supply of cups for students who forget to bring water bottles.

Classroom

- Desks and high touch areas will be sanitized after each class.
- Each classroom will have hand sanitizer dispensers.
- Classroom items that are not regularly used have been moved out of the classroom.

- Each student will have individual school supplies and will not share supplies in the classroom.
- All students will have access to their own Chromebook that is not shared with anyone else.

Passing Periods and Physical Distancing

- Students will not move from class to class. Instead, teachers will rotate from class to class as necessary.
- Following CDC guidelines for schools, physical distancing will be implemented when feasible. Masks will be worn when physical distancing is not possible.

Building Sanitizing and Cleaning

- Sanitizing (removing contaminants) and cleaning (removing residue) will be done with frequency and expanded to include the following:
 - o Sanitizing (removing contaminants) will occur in high frequency areas in regular intervals throughout the day.
 - o Cleaning (removing residue) will occur daily.

How will lunches be organized?

The CDC recommends that groups be limited to no more than 50 people.

- Lunch will be served in the classroom and then the students will be taken outside for a structured recess.
- Students will be able to move about in physical activities on the field while physical distancing.

When should students arrive on campus?

- Our school day begins early, and time is necessary for staff to arrive on campus and be prepared to supervise and to move students into their classrooms.
- We respectfully ask parents to not drop off students before 7:45. School begins at 8:00, and we would like to limit the time that groups of students can congregate on campus before school.
- Students who walk should time their departure so as not to arrive before 7:45

How will students be dismissed at the end of the school day?

- Student dismissal will be staggered the first week(s) of school beginning at 2:50. One grade will be released at a time with staff supervision. .

What if I need to pick my child up early from school?

- We ask that you limit the number of adults in the front office. We are happy to sign your child out for you and make sure that they walked safely to your car.

What if my child arrives late to school?

- We ask that you limit the number of adults in the front office. Older students may sign themselves into school, if late.

How will the health aide's room be organized for symptomatic and non-symptomatic students?

- We will be using an alternate space as a "sick" area. Students who are presenting with symptoms of any flu, cold, or respiratory illness will use this area as a waiting area to be

picked up from school.

- Students requiring medications, trauma care, and most other treatments will be treated in our health office.
- When possible, our health aide will travel to the child instead of having the child travel to the health office.

What after school activities will be held the first few weeks?

- There will be no after school activities for the first two weeks after students return to campus. We will reevaluate two weeks into in-person instruction.

When will sports resume?

- This has yet to be determined.

Will there be an open house this year?

CDC guidelines will not allow gatherings of more than 50 individuals. Open house will not be held this year.

Will I be allowed to volunteer on campus?

- Volunteers on campus and in the classroom will be limited for at least the first few weeks. Teachers will reach out with ways that volunteers can help with at home.

What supplies will my child need for the school year?

Wish list for classrooms- Classroom supplies that would be most appreciated:

- If available, PPE supply donations are appreciated.
- Tissue, tissue, tissue!
- Dry erase markers
- Post it notes
- Zip lock bags
- Paper towels
- Paper drinking cups.
- Water bottles
- Individual teachers will send out wish lists.

How can parents help?

- Be patient with us. Some specific things may need to be adjusted for the first day and week students return to campus.
- Help us limit the number of adults on campus in the first weeks students return to campus. We love having parents on campus and hope to be back to normal soon.
- Ask elementary siblings to wait for their siblings at the designated area.
- Allow us time in the morning to organize before students arrive. Drop off after 7:45 and work with walkers to arrive after 7:45
- Do daily Wellness Checks with your child. Please do not send students to school sick.

Our promise to you:

We know that school is going to look very different when we return. We also know that school is as much about friends and connections as it is about learning and academics.

- We understand that physical distancing is hard for our students. We will provide as

many typical interaction as possible.

- Regardless of whether students are remote or in our classroom, we will provide rigorous instruction and work to narrow any academic gaps from our previous school closure.
- We will continuously evaluate our instructional practices and safety protocols.
- We will treat others with patience and extend grace, knowing that this transition will be challenging for students and for families.

Thank you for all you do. We appreciate you and look forward to partnering with you this school year.

David McLendon
Director
Destiny School

Daily Home Checklist

Please keep children home if they are experiencing any of the following.

- Fever of 100.4 or higher.
- They are taking medicine to lower their temperature below 100.4.
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea