



June 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have navigated uncharted waters in our preparations for the 2020-21 school year. We have waited for further guidance from our state leaders on the opening of schools while preparing for a variety of possibilities.

School choice has been the cornerstone of Arizona education for over two decades and during that time parents have had the opportunity to choose the academic program that they believe is best suited to meet the needs of their student and family. We believe that providing school choice to parents and families is critical during these unprecedented times and that parents are in the best position to determine what is best and safest for their family.

The school year will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020 for all Leading Edge Academy schools. Following Governor Ducey's Executive Order on Thursday, July 23rd, we are happy to announce that Leading Edge Academy is making preparations to offer both an in-person and a distance learning (online) option to begin the new school year. Additional guidelines are expected from the state of Arizona on or around August 7, 2020 that will provide guidance for an in-person opening. These guidelines will provide flexibility for our school leaders, with public health data and guidance, to be able to safely prepare for an in-person return. Once these guidelines are released, Leading Edge Academy will analyze them, along with the needs of our school community, and revisit and possibly revise our plan for a successful reopening of our schools. At this time, Leading Edge Academy will continue with current planning for an August 17th start for both in-person and distance learning options.

With that in mind, we strive to provide all of you with the information you need to make the choice best for your student and family. Below are the current highlights of each option (in-person and distance learning) as well as a link to our COVID-19 webpage where detailed documents and policies can be found. The COVID-19 webpage is updated regularly so please refer to it often for the latest information.

Please review this information, discuss with your family, and determine which option (in-person or distance learning) is best for you. In the coming days, you will be contacted by email and asked to provide your choice for the start of the 2020-21 school year. If you have not previously responded with your selection between in-person and distance learning or, if your

choice has changed, please respond to this latest email with your choice no later than Friday, August 7, 2020.

Thank you again for your support of Leading Edge Academy and we are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

In-Person School Option

- Target date to begin is August 17, 2020 (pending review of forthcoming guidelines from the state of Arizona on or before August 7, 2020.)
- Parents will be required to sign a waiver of liability upon the return to in-person school and will be asked to certify that they will provide their student with a face covering and will screen their students for symptoms of illness before bringing them to school each day.
- All staff and students will be temperature checked and assessed for symptoms each day upon arrival to school.
- Anyone displaying symptoms will be sent home and must meet specific guidelines to return to school/work per the Leading Edge Academy COVID-19 Health Policy Addendum which was board approved on July 8, 2020. (Please see COVID-19 webpage for policy)
- Face coverings (face masks and/or face shields) will be required for staff and students per Governor Ducey's Executive Order 2020-51 on 7/23/20. Exceptions will be made for students when physical distancing can occur or when students are in playground settings with distancing. In addition, students will be provided breaks where their face covering can be removed in a safe environment.
- The physical school environment will be organized to promote physical distancing. Signage will be utilized and classroom layouts will be modified to ensure that students are not facing one another and are physically distanced as much as possible.
- Lunches will be delivered and eaten in classrooms to minimize the mixing of classes.
- Recess schedules will be developed to allow for smaller groups and to minimize the mixing of classes.
- Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be intensified in all schools and high touch surfaces and playground equipment will be sanitized regularly. Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the school campus.
- Communication protocols will be utilized to effectively communicate any possible exposure to COVID-19 by students or staff. Any person reporting a positive COVID-19 test will be required to follow the guidelines set forth in the Leading Edge Academy COVID-19 Health Policy Addendum before returning to school/work.

Distance Learning Option

- First day of school will be August 17, 2020
- Students will continue to be enrolled in their brick and mortar school but will be utilizing a distance learning option.
- Students will be working daily in the learning management system called SchoolsPLP or Lincoln Learning. This platform provides a rigorous curriculum aligned to Arizona state standards and will provide students with a consistent foundational program.
- Students will also be working directly with teachers each day through the use of live virtual platforms such as Zoom or Google Meets. The live sessions will provide students with direct instruction and an opportunity to seek additional assistance as needed. Students will participate in a minimum of 2 live sessions each day. All live sessions will be recorded and may be viewed from the SchoolsPLP/Lincoln Learning platform at a later time.
- Student attendance is required by law just as in the brick and mortar setting and will be taken each day. In order for students to be considered present for a full school day, they must be engaged in the SchoolsPLP/Lincoln Learning platform a minimum of 240 minutes each school day. Time spent working on assignments in the platform, participating in live whole group sessions, and participating in any small group additional support will count toward the 240 minute requirement.
- Although a daily schedule will be provided by teachers for students to follow, attendance will be determined by completion of the 240 minute requirement regardless of whether or not a student adheres to the daily schedule.
- This distance learning plan will provide students and parents more support and structure than the distance learning provided during the closing of schools in the spring 2020 while also providing them with the flexibility needed in a learning at home model.

The Leading Edge Academy COVID-19 webpage may be found on our website or with the link below:

<https://leadingedgeacademy.com/fall-return-to-school-plan/>