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Learning Foundation & Performing Arts

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DEAR FAMILIES,

We are excited to welcome you to Learning Foundation and Performing Arts! We know the past months have been extremely stressful for everyone. We hope you will find assurance in the fact that our leadership team has worked diligently to create the plans beginning on page 2 of this document. Our goal has been to create informed, prudent, and comprehensive plans that preserve the LFPA way and learning environment. We ask you to keep in mind that COVID-19 is still very fluid and requires the flexibility for plan adjustments as needed.

Our actions started with consideration of valuable feedback from parents, teachers, and other community stakeholders. We dedicated a lot of time to pursuing the guidance of instructional experts, health authorities, distance learning professionals, and state officials. We have studied the publications of the CDC and extensively explored the multiple Roadmaps for Reopening provided by the Department of Education. These efforts have resulted in collaboration of various scenarios and establishment of a plan that reflects our core mission and values. The plan also allows us the ability to ensure wellness and safety, provide flexibility and choice, and support a virtual state aligned curriculum with fidelity. It allows utilization of teachers who have prior established relationships with students and parents and can offer support, on-going progress monitoring, communication, and individual attention to each student.

Our plan represents the most current information surrounding the reopening of schools to in-person learning and is built to adjust to evolving conditions related to COVID-19. We will continue to update you when new information becomes available.

I want to thank each of you for partnering with us in patience, support, hard work, and resilience throughout these difficult times. We wish you all the best for good health, happiness, and certainty as we continue this journey together.

Educationally,

Nikki Valle
Alta Mesa Director

CHOICE AND FLEXIBILITY

LFPA offers two options for families:

- 1. Blended On-Campus Learning (BOCL)**
- 2. Distance Learning (DL) at home.**

Families will choose either BOCL or DL for the start of the school year. The two programs are run concurrently, with students progressing through the curriculum at the same pace. If circumstances change for a family, they may opt to move to a different program at various intervals throughout the year. Please keep in mind these options support the current COVID-19 situation, but **our ultimate goal is to have all students return to regular 5 day in-person learning as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.**

BLENDED ON-CAMPUS LEARNING (BOCL): Our BOCL program is designed to have students on campus and in classrooms 2 days per week and during regular school hours. Students will be assigned “A” and “B” days. Students assigned to “A” days will be on campus on Monday’s and Wednesday’s. Students assigned to “B” days will be on campus on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s. This structure incorporates distance learning the other three days of the week. This arrangement allows our campus to operate at 75% capacity each day in order to maintain proper social distancing and extra cleaning requirements until COVID-19 no longer presents serious safety risks for students and staff.

If extenuating circumstances do not allow a student to be home on one of the distance learning days please contact Mrs. Rutledge for assistance to secure a seat at our on-site Distance Learning Lab to complete online work for the day.

Blended On-Campus structure offers several key benefits:

- **Smaller class sizes:** Operating at a maximum capacity of 75% and some families choosing the on-line only option, your child will be in a class with fewer students and the academic benefit of this reduction to class size is readily apparent - from increased learning opportunities, to more frequent individual time with teachers, to fewer distractions.
- **The opportunity for families to remain authentically engaged in the academic success of their children:** With the enhanced on-line learning platform parents are systematically built into the formula for success. This also provides the opportunity for students to gain academic independence and have intermittent time away from campus to deepen concepts in a personal way where they are able to gain personal responsibility for their learning and more independence. We WANT students to learn the skill of self-direction and to experience personal accountability for success.
- **Increased well-being and safety:** With fewer students on campus, we can appropriately safely distance students and staff physically without feeling crowded or too constrained. There will be plenty of space, fresh air, and movement throughout the school day for everyone, as well as increased peace of mind for our teachers and parents. With ample physical spacing, we can encourage mask use rather than require use, unless mandated by government regulations.

DISTANCE LEARNING (DL): Families may opt for our Distance Learning program as their main school platform for learning at any time in the year. Students in this program will work through the same concepts as on-campus learners but will access the content digitally. Students will be required to attend virtual classes and submit all work in order to receive credit. All subject areas will contain daily time requirements and attendance will be taken. Daily learning plans, assignments, submissions, two-way communication, and curriculum resources will be accessed through Google Classroom and MobyMax. Lessons are mainly delivered asynchronously through class recordings or other digital lessons. This requires flexibility for learning at times conducive to your schedule. Students will be required to participate in weekly virtual meetings with the class, small groups and individual learning sessions that will allow check-ins with their classroom teachers and daily classroom hours for support. Assignments will be submitted with due dates and will be graded by the classroom teacher and/or on-line learning teacher.

If a student in the Distance Learning program desires to return to the Blended On-Campus program, the student may only do so at the beginning of the next quarter. If a DL student is unable to complete work on any given day, they must still report to the front office and the student will be marked absent for the day. We have limited technology available that may be provided to students by the school where needed on an individual basis.

WELLNESS AND SAFETY

The health and safety of students and staff at LFPA Alta Mesa is focused around prevention, physical distancing, and incident response. It is our number one priority to do everything we can to sustain and even improve upon our emotional, social, and physical health as we navigate through the year. Life in the school building will include plenty of comfortable space, fresh air, ventilation, cleanliness, order, and peaceful learning. Please reference our Health and Safety Measures document for a complete outline. Below you will find highlights of the measures we are taking to address the well-being of our school community.

Prevention Symptom screenings: Screening for common symptoms of ill health begins at home. It is your obligation as the parent to screen your child each day before sending him/her to school. Our Home Health Checklist will help you become familiar with the symptoms and provide a framework for daily at-home checks. If any of the listed symptoms are present, a family member must inform the school and keep the child home for a minimum of 14 days and the child must be released from a medical professional before returning to campus. All students, teachers and staff, will be visually screened upon arrival. Temperature checks may be deemed necessary. Anyone with a temperature check of 100 degrees or greater will be asked to return home. During the day, students who appear symptomatic will be sent to the office for further evaluation.

Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols: Following CDC guidelines, high touchpoint areas will sustain an increased cleaning and sanitation schedule daily. Special protocols for cleaning and disinfecting an area used by a sick person are in place.

Masks and face coverings: We will comply with all state and local requirements for mandatory face coverings; beyond requirements, face coverings are encouraged for everyone, but not required.

Visitors: LFPA will not allow any parents or visitors beyond the front desk for any reason until it has been deemed safe to do so by government regulation or CDC. This will help eliminate any additional foot traffic on campus and allow social distancing guidelines to be enforced.

Hand washing: All staff, teachers, and students will wash their hands and/or use sanitizer upon entry to the building, upon entry to a classroom, and before and after lunch.

Water Fountains: Students will be required to bring a water bottle to school daily. Water fountains will be closed for use until safe to open.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Classroom layout: Our BOCL program is built on reduced class sizes for all grade levels since some families have opted for the full DL program. This reduction in class size allows students the ability to move and interact freely and safely. Within the classrooms, students will be distanced to the greatest extent possible and social distancing guidelines will be followed when working with other students or teachers in class.

Transitions throughout the school day/shared communal areas: Students will remain with their grade level class/cohort throughout the day with the exception of specials for middle grade students. As much as possible, classes/cohorts will remain in the same classroom throughout the day. Large group transitions and shared use of communal areas will be minimized. Students will enjoy outdoor recess and lunch in the cafeteria with an adjusted schedule to accommodate smaller groups of students in shared areas.

Arrival and dismissal: Staggered arrival and dismissal will now occur at the back doors of the student's assigned building or room. This will eliminate large groups of students being in one area. Please reference our updated pick-up/drop-off procedure document for specific details. These procedures have been adjusted so that large congregations of students are not waiting together to be picked up. Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles during drop-off and pick-up, unless parking to walk their child to the front office for a late arrival and check-in.

Breakfast / Lunch: Breakfast and lunch will still be served each day for students who order. Breakfast will be served in the homeroom classroom from 8:00am-8:20am. Students must arrive to school prior to 8:20am in order to receive breakfast. Lunch and recess will still run as normal and be divided into smaller groups.

INCIDENT RESPONSE

Guidance and reporting: We have crafted a detailed response to incidents following the guidance and direction from the CDC and Maricopa County Health Department. In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

School closure: In the event of a school closure, we will resume all school distance learning within the next school calendar day and in the same manner as DL occurred at the start of the school year.

CURRICULUM FIDELITY

All children will receive a full academic year utilizing our rigorous state aligned curriculum along with LFPA best instructional practices. Teachers will continue to receive professional development and training that increases their level of knowledge and skill in order to execute our program with excellence. Our entire staff is well aligned to our mission, vision, and core values and committed to the positive learning environment that makes us LFPA. Whether at home or on campus, each child will receive a top-notch education with high expectations for the whole student.

STUDENT PROGRESS

As with any year, every student is still expected to fully engage in order to achieve full curriculum mastery and at least one year's academic growth. All students will be assessed at the beginning of the year through the DL program to determine achievement levels upon entry. Throughout the year and at regular checkpoints, progress toward mastery will be assessed and monitored by the classroom teacher. Student work will be graded and recorded according to normal practice and attendance reporting is a daily requirement. While parents will play an integral part in the success of students all year, especially when students are home, all students will continue to receive regular support from classroom teachers. Grade reporting and student progress will continue to be communicated to parents on-line through our student information system and communication portal. Assignment completion and progress will be tracked through Google classrooms and your child's individual Mobymax account.

COMMUNITY STRENGTH AND SUPPORT

In our LFPA community, we are vigorous in believing it is our mutual, deliberate, and family culture that allows us to be successful. We believe we are better together and together we can face anything that comes our way! We look forward to partnering with you to educate our students through the LFPA models. Each person in the community, (teachers, administrators, staff, students, parents), is an essential part of the equation for success. Each is accountable to ensure needs are met, people are cared for, and learning continues. With fluid two-way communication that includes enhanced mechanisms to be in touch regularly and in the moment, we are able to remain informed and equipped to do our work. Our entire staff is accessible through multiple communication channels and are able to answer questions and be a resource for all of our families. Also, our website, social media pages, and Dojo are an even stronger resource for up-to-date information. For this reason, following our pages is imperative to ensure you receive the latest information quickly.

Before/After School Clubs and Tutoring: Our programs run on scheduled days from 7am-6pm but are limited to 20 students in order to maintain proper social distancing. Priority will be given to working parents that have no other alternative for their children.

Busing: Busing will run as scheduled to accommodate student's in-person learning days. Students who have siblings on the bus will be seated together whenever possible. All students utilizing our bus will be required to wear face masks while on the bus due to the confined area. Our alternate in-person days allow for smaller numbers of students on the bus at a given time. Due to the restricted seating our van will no longer be regularly utilized to transport students until deemed safe to do so.