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Satori School Update ~ November 19, 2020

Dear Satori Students and Families,

I hope this email finds you well. There is a lot going on that I want to fill you in on, but first I want to say how thankful I am for each and every one of you. Coming to school every day and hearing (muffled) laughter in halls, watching teachers connect with both online and in-person students, and everyone working their hardest and best has kept me getting up every day. I am sad we will not be able to spend out Thanksgiving Feast together, but I know that if we stick to keeping each other safe, we can get there. Speaking of upcoming holiday breaks, it is important to continue to be safe and vigilant during the times we are not together at school. **Please remember that we are all a community and how you choose to spend your holiday(s) could affect our ability to stay open.**

As you know, I have weekly meetings with Pima County Health Department, and they have answered many of our concerns that I am sure you have as well. I am going to try and answer questions I have been asked and clarify some things as clearly as I can.

- **Are you going to physically close the school with numbers going up?** PCHD is recommending that we stay physically open as long as we are following our mitigation plan and we don't have any outbreaks (2 or more people that are epidemiologically linked) at school. If you click [HERE](#) you will see it says for schools to stay hybrid at this time.
- **PCHD Data Dashboard has areas that are trending towards red, I thought that means you must close?** When we first looked at reopening the school, Pima County needed to be in the green to open safely. Now that we are open, they do not feel anyone should look at closing until all three areas are in the red (Percent Positivity, Cases over 2 Consecutive Weeks, and COVID-like Symptoms). They do not see that happening but will reevaluate if it does.
- **Did PCHD say why cases were going up?** They are seeing an increase of cases in the penitentiary, social gatherings outside of school, full contact team sports, and family get togethers. Case reports at schools are under 5%. This does not necessarily mean that cases are originating from the school either. If a case is reported to us, we are obligated to report it to PCHD.
- **Why didn't you tell us where the case was last week?** HIPAA laws prevent us from telling anyone who has COVID-19, lice, etc. I know it is scary to hear when there is a case at school but unless you or your child has been in "close contact" with the person there is no need to worry. If we stick with our mitigation plan - students/staff wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping their distance - we should be fine.

Again, I am thankful for your support and I will let you know if anything changes with the state or county. Please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving,

Jo

Joanna Honea
Executive Director/Head of School
Satori School