Dear Cave Creek Unified School District Parents and Families,

We hope this communication finds you and your family healthy during this challenging time. We are looking forward to welcoming back our students as we have many great things planned for high-quality learning. This communication is to update you on our academic offerings for the 2020-2021 school year. The following information will provide you with our district’s options for learning so please read it in its entirety.

As you know, Governor Ducey announced that schools may not begin “face-to-face” instruction until August 17th. The executive order from the governor does allow school districts to begin distance learning on their originally planned start date if they choose.

Cave Creek Unified School District’s first day of school will continue to be August 5th, with learning to be 100% online for all students rather than in-person “face-to-face.” Tentatively, on August 17th, students that have chosen our in-person campus learning option will transition back to “face-to-face.” Students that have chosen our fully online learning option through our new online school will continue with 100% online learning for the remainder of the school year.

Why are we beginning school online on August 5th?

- Our finish to the 2019-2020 school year was unconventional. Our students need to return to school and their routines as planned. Therefore, we need to follow our approved calendar to begin providing learning for our students on time.
- Our schools offer many other services to students that are important to begin along with our previously planned start date. Some of these services include: child nutrition, counseling, special education, gifted education, language learning, and clubs, among others.
- By starting our school year with all of our students online, this provides us with the opportunity to be flexible with the first day of “face-to-face” school, should that day be on August 17th or if it is pushed back further. Our students will also be prepared for online learning should the Governor announce another closure at any other time during the school year.

Objective

As always, our objective at CCUSD is to provide school and learning opportunities for 100% of students.
You May Choose How You Return to Cave Creek Unified School District for the 2020-2021 School Year:

CCUSD understands that choice and flexibility are very important to our community of learners and their families. We are committed to meeting these needs through two different options that we will offer starting in the 2020-2021 school year. Below you will find the details of each option.

Please select one of the following options below as the best fit for your student and family.

In order for us to plan accordingly, we are asking that you make a decision and submit the required information for your choice by July 19th.

**OPTION 1**

**DISTANCE LEARNING**

Students are learning at home while schools are closed.

**FACE TO FACE LEARNING**

All students are learning in school buildings.

**OPTION 2**

**ONLINE LEARNING**

Students are enrolled in Cave Creek Academy of Excellence for the year.

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**Face-to-Face Learning Starting with Distance Learning**

CCUSD schools will begin teaching and learning online on August 5th, with teachers and students working together through distance learning. Upon removal of the school closure order by the Governor (tentatively August 17th), CCUSD schools will transition students back to face-to-face learning with their teachers full time on campus. If your student is already enrolled at one of our CCUSD schools and your choice is to return to in-person on campus when allowed again, please complete this survey to let us know your intent to continue with your school. You will not need to take any additional action at this time.

**OPTION 1**

CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY TO SELECT OPTION 1

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**Cave Creek Academy of Excellence (Full-Time Online School)**

Cave Creek Academy of Excellence (AOE) is our new fully online school that will offer full time learning opportunities for CCUSD students using accredited high-quality online learning curriculum for K-12 students. This school's curriculum and learning approach will be different from all other schools in the district as it is a completely new school with its own unique offerings. If you select this option, your student will begin with this model on August 5th and continue online for the remainder of the school year. For more information about AOE and how to transfer your student, click below to visit the school website.

**OPTION 2**

CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE AOE WEBSITE AND TO REGISTER FOR AOE - OPTION 2
**OPTION 1**

What will Cave Creek’s face-to-face learning starting with distance learning look like at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year?

- Cave Creek’s distance learning approach and design (before the return to face-to-face) will not be the same as the remote learning that was offered at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- All students will be learning online with their classroom teacher(s) and classmates in both synchronous (happening in real time) and asynchronous (flexible timing) formats.
- Teachers will use our new learning management system, Canvas, in conjunction with our accredited, high-quality curriculum and adopted resources to teach interactive and engaging lessons.
- Our teachers and staff will provide social, interactive experiences between classmates and social-emotional support for students.
- Upon removal of the school closure order by the Governor (tentatively August 17th), your student will begin in-person (on campus) learning full time at your “brick and mortar” school.

**OPTION 2**

What will the Cave Creek Academy of Excellence look like for the 2020-2021 school year?

- The Academy of Excellence (AOE) distance learning approach and design will not be the same as the remote learning that was offered at the end of the 2019-2020 school year and will also not be the same as the “Face-to-Face starting with Distance Learning” option.
- All students will be learning online independently with a CCUSD teacher who will monitor learning and assessments through modules in an asynchronous (flexible timing) format. Parental learning support will be required.
- AOE is a completely different school, not connected to any other “brick and mortar” schools in the district. AOE will follow a different learning path that does not mirror what is offered at other schools in the district. Extra-curricular activities will be limited and immersion programs will not be offered at AOE. Electives and CTE course offerings for grades 6-12 are pending based on staff availability. IB, AP, Dual Enrollment and NCAA approved courses will not be available through the AOE.
- Enrollment in AOE is intended to be for the entire school year and not for periodic timeframes. Students in AOE will NOT be learning within a pathway that sets them up for a return to in-person school but rather, AOE is meant to serve as a fully online option for students for the entire school year. Students in grades K-5 wishing to change their choice of learning option, may do so at the end of the quarter and students in grades 6-12 may make a change at the end of the semester.

As a reminder, we are asking that all parents/families select one of these options by July 19th so that we may prepare staffing, professional development and curriculum. If your choice is to return to in-person on-campus, no action is required other than the quick survey. We will continue to update our parents and families as information becomes available and decisions are made.

Please refer to https://www.ccusd93.org for the latest and most up-to-date and accurate information.

Thank you for your continued support of Cave Creek schools.