

Subject Title: Summer School Update

Dear Khalsa Families:

You are receiving this email as your child(ren) is/are registered for one or both summer sessions. I want to acknowledge the increase in COVID-19 cases since last Friday's initial email regarding summer school. The Governor's lifting of the Stay-At-Home Order on May 15th has seen three weeks' worth of activity re-opening the economy. The concern that was driving my decision to not open on June 1st for summer school was what would be the result of this re-opening and the spread of COVID-19. Since June 1, 2020, there has been an increase in percentage of positive COVID-19 cases, hospital bed usage, emergency room visits related to suspected COVID-19 cases, and ICU bed usage. Thankfully deaths are currently trending down.

At present, we are preparing for the opening of summer school while carefully watching these trends in our local area. I am also considering not having summer school if these indicators of COVID-19 spread continue dramatically upward. The plan for summer school was to provide the school staff the ability to "road test" the new safety protocols and learn from their implementation what works best. Like a "soft opening" of a new restaurant, we want to perfect these new processes with a smaller population before the new school year begins.

All Smart Tuition accounts have been adjusted to reflect tuition charges for Summer Session #3 and #4. All extended care fees have been removed. Any June charges were deleted last week and ***no payments are expected if no in-person summer school occurs.***

Our teaching teams at each campus are currently working on plans for the next school year. We have been tasked by the AZ Department of Education to create four plans for SY 2020-21: in-person school with safety protocols, on-line instruction only, a hybrid version of in-person and on-line instruction as well as an emergency plan to move from in-person school to on-line school or from on-line school to in-person school.

These plans are meant to prepare school communities for possible scenarios due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are mindful of mitigating risk and can't eliminate all risks present in our community. We are concerned about the impact that school closures have had on our students' emotional and social lives as well as academic learning. The developmental needs of our students are an intrinsic aspect of the Montessori Method and will always guide our decisions.

The possibility of a vaccine by January 1, 2021, if not sooner, provides a potential endpoint to the COVID-19 crisis. Given the fluidity of these weeks leading up to summer school start, I commit to weekly updates and open conversation about safety protocols. We all appreciate your continuing support. Again, our intention continues to be the well-being and safety of the children, families, and staff of our school community.

Blessings of health and wellness,



Karen Paxton