



KMS Community Update 7-16-21

Dear Khalsa Community,

I hope your summer has been restful and fun. The summer program has been low key and COVID free. The students have enjoyed the many activities that make summer special.

Recently the Arizona Legislature passed laws that affect all publically funded schools. They have mandated that no school can require masks or COVID-19 vaccinations. This applies to everyone: students, staff and family members. Yet, these practices are part of the recommended mitigation strategies from public health authorities.

Yesterday, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health had their first School and Daycare webinar for the new year. They believe that these practices are effective in stopping the spread of COVID-19: vaccination, correct use of masks, physical distancing of 3-6 feet, hand hygiene, room ventilation, respiratory etiquette, and staying home when sick along with monitoring community spread. As noted in yesterday's webinar, our cases are increasing in Maricopa County as is the percent of positive cases.

I am in the process of revising out KMS Fall Operating Plan. The legal changes will be incorporated into this plan. Each family must make a decision that fits their own personal situation. The school will continue to operate in person while seeking the middle path maintaining a safe and healthy educational environment for all. Our strength is our community that has kept each other and the school protected during a multi-year pandemic.

This coming school year the Upper Elementary will have two classrooms with a lead teacher and an assistant in each one. Next week additional communications will announce our new teachers, including Middle School, to their classes. We are continuing to work together to restructure our Montessori program for this latest challenge. Please join us as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

Karen Paxton

Khalsa Montessori School

