



Tarwater Families,

I usually begin sending my Friday emails to all families the Friday before the first day of school. This year, I know more communication is necessary. So, while today is not Friday, I wanted to provide an update.

As of now, the plan to start the school year has not changed. Governor Ducey let the decision of when to allow students on campus for instruction up to each district. With the promise of more direction coming on August 7th. For now, online instruction will begin on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and in-person instruction is set to begin on Monday August 17<sup>th</sup> ...unless something changes. Stay tuned.

We enthusiastically welcome the almost 500 students who have enrolled to be Tarwater Toros in-person this year. Approximately 250 students have selected Chandler Online Academy (COA). We hope to stay in close communication with those families if they wish. If you are one of those families who selected the COA option and would like to continue to be on our mailing list, please let us know by completing this quick form for your email address.

<https://forms.gle/FBrruwegeWeTbNnX7>

This very fluid situation has also caused changes to our faculty. Mrs. Melody Nowotarski, Kindergarten teacher, has decided to retire. We wish her well and are grateful to the many years we had her here. Mrs. Amy Deahr has also decided not to return to teaching this year. She looks forward to spending time with her family. We will miss them, but respect the decisions teachers have to make for their families as well. Due to staffing changes, and constant enrollment changes, our classroom/teacher assignments are changing daily. We hope to be able to send you a teacher assignment on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Please know, that while we hope to not have to make a lot of changes, after that time, we may have to. I appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through many uncertainties and unknowns. Like always, but especially this year, I will not be able to make class switches based on requests.

Our teaching staff has not had much of a summer. They have been doing a great deal of training and I think you will see how your children will benefit greatly by the many new skills our teachers have developed this summer. It is certainly one of the silver linings of this situation – teachers have had time to sharpen their skills and work together like never before.

On Monday, August 3 we will host a “Meet the Teacher”, but like everything else this school year, it will be much different. Teachers will be reaching out to you to schedule a time to either meet you virtually, or in person. This will be up to the comfort level of both teachers and parents. In-person meetings will be limited to only ONE child and ONE adult per family (no

# Toros *Together*

siblings please) for a 10 minute time slot with time in between for cleaning. Virtual Meet the Teacher meetings will occur through Google Meets. The teacher will schedule a time and send you the link to join. These will also be quick 10 minute meetings. We will have a pick-up system for families who do the virtual meeting to come to campus on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 3:00pm for consumable school items.

The purpose of this is multi-layered:

1. To provide families and staff a safe way to engage with each other
2. To inform parents about the upcoming school year
3. To build excitement for families about being part of the Tarwater Family
4. To distribute any consumables that may be needed while learning virtually
5. To build or restore confidence in our families

Please know that all of our preparations for in-person safety is in process and will continue as we do online teaching. We plan to take advantage of every moment we have to prepare our campus for the return of students so we can do it safely.

Finally, I have spoken with many of you and appreciate your heartfelt support of the challenges we face as a public school. Your respect for what we do inspires us to give it our all. I also want to thank our Parent Leadership Group who have helped form the decisions for this school year over the summer. Their input has been very valuable!

We can do this, **together**.

Please read my blog post for Quarter 1 <https://www.cusd80.com/Page/79305>

Sincerely,  
Diane Hale, Principal