Dear Phoenix Union Families:

We hope this message finds you safe and well during these challenging times. As Phoenix Union continues to monitor COVID-19 and the impact it is having on our community, we want to share important information regarding the start of school this fall, as well as information on how you can receive the most up-to-date information as quickly as possible. Please take a moment to view this video address from PXU Superintendent Dr. Chad Gestson on our plans to safely return to school.

**Return to School**

We are excited to welcome all students back to school remotely beginning August 3, 2020. As you may have seen, Governor Ducey ordered that all schools can open to in-person instruction on August 17, but are allowed to open for remote learning sooner.

Phoenix Union is committed to the health and safety of all students and staff. We will not re-open schools in person until it is safe, responsible, and reasonable to do so. Therefore, Phoenix Union will open and provide all students remote learning only for the first quarter of the school year beginning August 3rd. The first quarter ends on Friday, October 2nd. This decision allows our teachers and families to prepare and focus on beginning school without any uncertainty or doubt for the first quarter.

If the Governor announces that in-person learning is still an option after August 17 and before the end of the first quarter, Phoenix Union would consider safely opening some parts of campuses. This option would be available for a limited number of students and whose families are unable to maintain employment while in full remote learning. Remote learning would still continue through the end of the quarter even for students who must access campus because of family childcare issues. This option would be available if we have sufficient staff members who are able and healthy enough to work on site.

While we understand the importance of our students returning to campus and engaging in person with their teachers, friends, clubs and other activities, their health and safety is our first priority. We continue to actively plan to bring as many students as possible back to a safe environment on campus at the appropriate time.

Here is what you need to know about the first nine weeks of school:

- All students will have access to a District computer. Internet hotspots will be available as needed to take their classes.
• Information will be sent soon about technology distribution dates and times.
• Students will engage in new learning. In other words, classes will be back to normal in terms of new instruction being provided. This will happen virtually versus in person.
• All schools will operate in a 3-class block schedule format.
• Some small schools will have unique schedules that will be communicated to families separately.

We understand that every family has a choice in their student’s education, and we want to ensure you receive the best fit for you. When it is time for students to return to campus for in-person learning, your school will reach out to you to determine if you would like your student to return to in-person on-campus learning or continue with remote learning through our remote learning options. We also know that many students look forward to participating in sports. We will continue to work with the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) to determine when we can safely restart our athletic opportunities.

**Communicating With You As The New School Year Starts**

Now more than ever, it is important that we have multiple ways of communicating with parents as quickly as possible. While we will continue to make phone calls and send letters to share important information, one of the fastest ways to communicate with all parents is through ParentVUE, our parent communication application. ParentVUE is used to receive updates, check grades, connect with teachers etc. It is important that parents log in to their ParentVUE account and maintain their credentials. Please download the free application on your mobile device (carrier data fees may apply). ParentVUE is also available online at https://parentvue.phoenixunion.org/PXP2_Login.aspx. To register your email address and activate your account, please visit www.PXU.org/ReturnToSchool. Contact your school if you need any assistance.

We will continue to monitor COVID-19 and notify you immediately if there are any changes to the start of the school year. We miss and love our students, and we can’t wait to begin classes remotely on August 3. Please continue to visit www.PXU.org/ReturnToSchool for updates and more information.