

# SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 9, 2020

Dear Sycamore Families,

Over the last two months, we have experienced a start of a school year like none other. The excitement of walking onto campus to begin the new year was disrupted due to COVID-19. Students, parents, and teachers found new and creative ways to experience school in a virtual setting. The metrics in Arizona and Pima County are improving, and the Vail School District is preparing to move into the Hybrid Phase of learning. As outlined in Superintendent Carruth's letter on September 8, *The purpose of the hybrid phase is to welcome students on campus, but physically distanced as much as possible and/or keeping them in the same groups throughout the day. This is made possible by the reassigning and restructuring of classes and teachers.*

The purpose of this communication is to share Sycamore's plan for Hybrid (in-person) learning and Brick to Click, where families can continue to keep their students home until we move out of the hybrid phase. We fully acknowledge that neither model is what we had hoped for our children, but we also understand it's the next step on the path to moving back to full in-person learning.

Please read through the information below and carefully make a decision on whether *Hybrid* or *Brick to Click* will be right for your child. We respectfully request that parents commit to their choice until the time comes that Arizona moves out of the hybrid phase. Lastly, please complete the linked survey by Sunday, September 13 to make your educational choice for your child(ren). I am available to answer questions you may have about the choice between Hybrid and Brick to Click.

**Hybrid Learning (in-person)** is different from our traditional school schedule. Below is what you can expect from Sycamore's Hybrid Model.

- Students will come to school Monday through Thursday from 7:40 am - 1:20 pm. to receive in-person learning in Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- Students will participate in one hour of learning from home Monday through Thursday.
- On Friday, all students will learn remotely from home. Friday is similar to our current remote learning asynchronous time.
- Our goal is to keep students together in classroom cohorts of 24 or fewer students, lessening interactions with students not in their cohort.
- Keeping cohorts under 25 students is made possible by the reassigning and restructuring of classes and teachers. It is our intention for students to return to their originally assigned teacher when full in person learning resumes.
- Specific grade levels may need additional teachers to accommodate smaller student cohorts. Specialty area teachers will be used to teach in these grade level bonus classes.
- At this time, we do not expect to reorganize any of our classes in grades Kinder-2nd grades.
- In 3rd-5th grade, even with new teachers, students will stay connected to their assigned teacher and become familiar with other grade level teachers.
- As our 3rd-5th grade students remain in their cohorts, teachers will instruct in a specific content area to all students and teachers will rotate rooms.
- Grade levels may have variations of this model.
- Specialist classes will be on hold as our specialist team members will be instructing at other grade levels.
- Specialists will send home weekly activities to keep our students connected to PE, Music, Art and SUMS (Students Understanding Math and Science).
- Kindergarten times are AM: 7:40-10:10 and PM: 10:50-1:20. Kinder Enrichment will be provided.
- Families need to sign [the linked acknowledgement form](#) to participate in hybrid learning. Parents will receive an email from the District Office through eSignGenie next week providing the cover letter and form asking them to sign and submit electronically.

In the Vail Schools We:

Are Respectful and Trustworthy • Care about each other • Take Responsibility

16701 S. Houghton Road • Corona de Tucson, AZ 85641 • (520) 879-2500 • (520) 879-2501

Safety precautions for our on-site learning can be found on our website at <https://syc.vailschooldistrict.org>. Precautions include:

- Families will need to complete the [Daily Home Health Screening Checklist](#) before arriving at school.
- Temperature checks for all students and staff will be implemented upon arriving at school.
- All students and staff are [required to wear cloth face coverings](#) (with the exception of recess) when physical distancing is not possible.
- Students will stay with their cohort at recess, lunch, and specials.
- We will have staggered drop-off times for all students.
- Buses will be run at partial capacity. Bus schedules will soon be posted to our website.

**Brick to Click** is a strong option for parents that are not prepared to send their child(ren) back to school. Below is what you can expect from Sycamore's Brick to Click Model.

- Students will use Schoology to access their lessons in Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies.
- Synchronous times with their teachers will be adjusted during the day.
- The synchronous schedule will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:45-2:15 pm (times may be adjusted at each grade level) and two 30-45 minute blocks on Fridays for ELA and Math instruction.
- Synchronous times on Friday will remain the same as our current remote learning times.
- Across grade levels, maintaining connections with our students, direct instruction, and guided practice will be the focus of synchronous times.

**Special Education:**

Students will continue to receive Special Education services during both the Hybrid and Brick to Click models. Parents will be contacted by case managers during the week of September 14th. Please reach out to your child's case manager if you have questions.

If you are ready to make your choice for the hybrid learning phase now, please feel free to do so [here](#). I encourage you to call or email me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Ken Graff  
Principal of Sycamore  
520-879-2504  
[graaffk@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:graaffk@vailschooldistrict.org)

