



Ball Charter Schools Academic Update August 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The safe and expedient opening of school is a top priority for our Governing Boards and school administrators at Arizona Ball Charter Schools. Your continued support and participation in our outstanding academic programs are appreciated.

Of all the challenges facing the Ball Charter Schools communities during this time of Covid-19, one of the most difficult is how we can continue to provide an exemplary education for all of our students while still maintaining their safety and the safety of our staff and faculty.

Our goal is to provide the safest and best education for your student. Whether it be in-person, online, or a combination of both, and we are dedicated to continuing to provide the same high level of education that you have come to expect from Ball Charter Schools.

After considering staff, faculty, and student-families' input, along with current Covid-19 metrics and guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) regarding school reopening, Arizona Ball Charter Schools Governing Boards have approved the following dates:

- Distance learning will begin for all students on August 17, 2020.
- On-site learning opportunities and support services will be available beginning on August 17, 2020, for families with no alternatives for their children and for students who receive support services. (Please see below.)
- In-person instruction will begin on August 24, 2020, for families who selected this model for the first quarter of this school year.

Each of our school campuses is undertaking extensive safety protocols that include, but are not limited to, safe distancing, hygienic ventilation systems, mask guidelines, and prescreening procedures.

We understand how challenging it has been to make definitive plans within an ever evolving and unpredictable environment such as this. The in-person instruction beginning date of August 24, 2020 is firm, at this time, provided that AZDHS Covid-19 metrics do not warrant the consideration of further postponement.

During this unprecedented time, Arizona Ball Charter Schools continues to be committed to data-informed and people-focused decision making that supports both the need for health and safety along with the educational needs of our students and families.

Regards,

Arizona Ball Charter Schools Governing Boards

John Huppenthal, President

Mike Sobieski, Vice President





On-site Learning and Support Services

Val Vista Academy

Schools must ensure compliance with the clause of Gov. Ducey's Executive Order, mandating that schools offer "free on-site learning opportunities and support services" during the school day. Therefore, Val Vista Academy will be offering access to a Learning Annex for students who have no other option during the week of August 17. Here students can use school devices to access lessons and teacher-directed activities during school hours. To ensure ample space and appropriate staffing, we ask that you complete the survey included at the bottom of this letter.

It is imperative to note that the Learning Annex:

- Students will not be provided direct instruction/in-person learning by their teachers.
- Will be available for no cost during regular school hours only.
 - Childcare will be available before and after regular school hours at the normal rates
- Will be appropriately supervised and help or guidance for students while they are working will be offered, if needed.
- May not be divided or separated by grade/cohort. Students may be 'mixed' depending on number of students, space, and staffing.
- Desks or workspaces that allow for social distancing between students to the greatest extent possible will be provided.
- Masks are required.
- Lunch and snacks will not be provided by the school. Each child shall bring his/her food from home.
- Lunch break and recess breaks will be provided.
- Students are encouraged to bring school appropriate reading materials, independent games or activities, simple arts-and-crafts, etc. to do if they complete their class assignments. Computers may be used for schoolwork or for access to school-selected websites/games/activities only.
- Use of cell phones or similar technology will not be permitted.
- Uniforms will not be required; however, VVA [casual dress code](#) must be complied with.
- The [VVA Code of Conduct](#) and all school rules apply. Students who cause a disruption to the learning environment may be removed from the Annex.
- All students will be temperature checked 2x/day, or approximately every 4 hours.

To sign-up for on-site learning, please click [here](#).

Please contact dbaca@ballcharterschools.org if more information is required.

Respectfully,

Debra Baca, Principal

Val Vista Academy

