

Orange Grove Middle School



5-Day, In-Person Learning Begins at OGMS Next Week (March 15-19)

March 8, 2021

Dear OGMS Families,

We want to extend our deep appreciation to our teachers, staff, and families for exemplifying heroic efforts over the past months. As a result, we are the only district that has kept its doors open to on-campus learning since October. We have all navigated the many changes required over the past year with flexibility and professionalism. Each of you is a key reason that our district stands as a shining example in our community.

On that note, it makes us acutely aware of the implications that [The State of Arizona Executive Order 2021-04](#) brings at this point in the school year. Our goal in this letter is to explain the Executive Order and to let you know how it will affect your student.

What is Executive Order 2021-04: Open for In-Person Learning? Governor Ducey's order of March 3, 2021, states that district and charter schools shall return to in-person, teacher-led instruction no later than the Monday following a scheduled spring break, or by March 15 if there is not a scheduled spring break. This order also requires that we notify you within a reasonable time period that in-person learning will resume full-time at your student's school.

All in-person students will attend 5 days per week, beginning the week of March 15. In CFSD, we had previously announced the plan to combine our two cohorts into a 4-days-a-week schedule in grades 6-12. With the Governor's directive, we now need to offer in-person learning on each school day. Therefore, we will no longer

have an asynchronous day on Wednesday (at the middle schools) or on Friday (at the high school). Wednesdays are usually late start days, and run from 9:30 - 2:30.

Fully remote learning will continue as an option for students.

If and when transmission in Pima County decreases to the “moderate” or “low” categories, any student who wants to return to in-person learning will be able to do so. The order defines four categories of community transmission: low, moderate, substantial, and high. Currently, the level of community transmission in Pima County is in the substantial category. The order notes that schools in counties with substantial transmission may continue to employ strategies to reduce attendance. We will inform you when the transmission level decreases and we are able to accommodate more students.

We are committed to keeping our schools safe. It’s important to know that the positive COVID rate in our schools remains very low. With bringing more students back to campus, all of CFSD’s mitigation strategies will still be in place, and we will keep students physically-distanced to the greatest extent possible. All other mitigation strategies will continue to be maintained. You can review our Mitigation Plan [here](#) on our website, under Reopening Plan>Health & Safety Guidelines.

On Late Start Wednesdays at OGMS, students will attend school from 9:30 - 2:30. Students attending school remotely will attend live lessons all day Wednesday, from 9:30 - 2:30 (with a break for lunch), just as in-person students will attend lessons on campus. Academic assistance will be available from all teachers from 8:55 - 9:25. Remote learners may schedule an appointment with any teacher to meet online during this time.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we comply with the requirements of this Executive Order. We are grateful that you have chosen CFSD for your child’s education. Together, we will finish the school year strong.

Sincerely,

Mark Rubin-Toles

Principal

1911 East Orange Grove Road Tucson, Arizona 85718

(520) 209-8200 attendance: (520) 209-8290

ogms.cfsd16.org



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