Dear Keystone Families,

Thank you for your continued support as we work together for the Keystone community. On Wednesday, August 26th, the Keystone Board of Directors met to discuss the reopening for in-person learning at Keystone.

The Keystone Board of Directors and Administration remains committed to the well being of our students, staff and families. As previously discussed at the August 10th Board of Directors meeting and subsequently communicated to the community of August 12th, we will continue to follow and refer to the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) benchmarks for determining a date for a safe return to in-person instruction for our Elementary and Adolescent programs. A link to the benchmarks and current metrics, which are updated every Thursday, can be found [HERE](https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-schools).

The full document outlining safely returning to in-person instruction released by the AZDHS can be found [HERE](https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf).

Our Toddler and Children’s House programs are currently open and will remain open following all current safety protocols, unless otherwise directed by the Governor. These programs are considered child-care by the State of Arizona. Keystone opened these programs in July and was mandated by Executive Order to keep them open and operational when the delay to the start of the school year was announced.

The Keystone Board of Directors and Administration continues to be fully committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. By following the recommendations given by the AZDHS, we have put into place a plan to safely re-open the Keystone campus once the benchmarks are met.

Once the benchmarks are met and a decision to reopen has been made, we will select a date for returning to in-person learning. A full week will be required to take into account the needs of the staff to properly prepare the campus to safely receive the charter students, obtain a commitment from parents whether they choose their students to be on campus or continue on-line, and have a community informational meeting. There will be both an informational meeting for those who wish to continue to Learn from Home and those choosing to return to campus.

The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday, September 4th at 6:00pm to review the AZDHS benchmark status and discuss possible hybrid re-opening. As of Thursday, August 27th, two of the three benchmarks were met. The Board and the Administration sincerely appreciates your understanding and patience as we balance this delicate situation and look after the health and safety of our Keystone community.

Sincerely,

Laura Hertzler             Stefan Linder
Head of School           Assistant Head of School