

November 27, 2020

Mission Heights' Families,

Happy Friday, Phantoms! I hope your Thanksgiving Day filled your hearts as much as mine did. I am always grateful for an extra day to be reminded of all the blessings. In the midst of chaos and pandemic, there is family, and for that I am thankful. I am also thankful for our Mission Heights' family. I know many of you have been curious about our plan for staying opened or not for next week. Based on the benchmarks for Pinal County, we have landed in the red in two categories, which we were expecting. Nonetheless, Pinal County still recommends we remain hybrid, and, as promised, Mission Heights would like to follow these guidelines unless unable to do so due to cases in our school. (See [Benchmarks here.](#))

Last week, Mission Heights had two cases of positive Covid-19 on our campus. We communicated these to the Pinal County Health Department and took all safety precautions, identifying the students and staff who were highly exposed and putting them in quarantine. We will continue to maintain these protocols and communicate as soon as we learn about each case, so that all families are in the know. As stated last week, if you wish to keep your student at home, that is completely acceptable. If you choose to do this, please email myself or our Student Mentor, Jocelyn Martinez ([jocelyn.martinez@leonagroup.com](mailto:jocelyn.martinez@leonagroup.com)), so we can let teachers know for attendance coding purposes.

However, Mission Heights chooses to remain open as long as we are able to do so safely and Pinal County HD recommends it. Our reasons for doing this are:

1. Our students need to be with their teachers.
2. We have many students with unreliable internet access who need our support.
3. Our students need monitored and safe social interaction. It is proven to be good for mind, body and soul.
4. Our job is education. This is the best and most efficient way to do our job.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out. We will continue to communicate with you each Friday on what our plan is for the upcoming week. However, please know that we could have to return to remote instruction at any point in a week if cases continue to happen. Parents and students should have a back-up plan for this established just in case, so there are no surprises. We are honored to continue on in our work of education and will always do our best to do so. PLEASE keep your students home if they are sick with any symptoms. PLEASE get them tested if symptoms continue. PLEASE report them to us so we can know what is happening and keep students, staff and families safe. We are ALL in this together.

Blessings, and have a good weekend,

Amanda Mace  
School Leader