2020-2021 Academic Models
Frequently Asked Questions

**Academic Models**

Will my child have the opportunity to participate in a different model throughout the year?
- Absolutely. We will allow families to participate in a different model during the school year when selecting In-person, Hybrid, and Community Based Digital Models. We will be providing the processes on how this will occur and the frequency at which families will be able to participate in a different model in the orientation later this summer.

When will we know which model our child will participate in?
- We will notify all families on their selected model in mid-July. We will do our best to honor everyone’s first or second choice.

Will the survey to choose a model be for each family or each student?
- Families will complete a survey for each of their children students allowing them to make a preference selection for each child attending ASU Prep. The survey will have you rank your preferences in first, second, third, and fourth ranking.

Will families schedules be the same when they have multiple students attending ASU Prep?
- For families with multiple children who attend ASU Prep - we will strive to make sure that when families select the same model for their children that they all remain on the same schedule.

What is Collaboration, Innovation, and Application time on Friday’s?
- This provides your child the opportunity for your students to gather information, collaborate with teachers and peers to enhance their own learning, work on projects, receive additional enrichment, and participate in special programs or presentations. CIA Time will be available in-person and virtually. The availability of these times will vary by school. Your school will provide you with additional details on this time.

What does half day mean?
- Half day means students will be attending four (4) - five (5) hours per day. The final half day schedule will be provided to families in mid-July.
The difference between community based digital and hybrid is what?
- In the hybrid model students will participate in-person two days per week, two days virtually, and participate in Collaboration, Innovation and Application time on Fridays. In the community based digital model students will have the option participate in-person in the Collaboration, Innovation, and Application time on Fridays.

How will Community Based Digital be different than ASU Prep Digital?
- Community Based Digital still includes an in-person component and allows your child to keep their spot at their current school. If you currently want your child to have some onsite time, or if you anticipate wanting that later this school year, this would be the ideal option for your family. Our Digital Elementary School is a full time, 100% remote option, where you would enroll in our Digital School.

Does ASU Preparatory Academy now have a Digital Elementary School?
- Yes. ASU Preparatory Digital now serves students the opportunity to learn online K-12.

Will ASU Preparatory Digital have options for my child to socialize with their peers?
- Yes. ASU Preparatory Digital will include online opportunities for your child to socialize with their peers across the state through live lessons, virtual recess, and school clubs.

If we choose fully digital are we still a part ASU Prep?
- ASU Prep Digital is a part of the ASU Preparatory Academy network of schools. You will still be a part of ASU Prep. However, they are a separate charter and the state requires that we officially withdraw your student from our brick and mortar school and officially register with ASU Prep Digital so you will need to complete the entire registration process and paperwork with ASU Prep Digital. You can start that process by going to https://www.asuprepdigital.org/contact/ to sign up for ASU Prep Digital. You will also contact your current brick and mortar school and officially withdraw and we'll ensure the transition is as seamless as possible.

Will the school calendar remain the same with the same days off and breaks?
- Yes, the school calendars posted on our website remain the same in the in-person, hybrid, and community-based digital models. While ASU Prep Digital has a slightly different calendar it remains the same as it was when it was posted.
Classrooms

Will you be able to maintain physical distancing in the classroom?

- We will place student desks and tables in the room so that students are each six feet apart and we will work with students on educating them and setting expectations around physical distancing.

In grades 6-12, students typically rotate classrooms throughout the day, will this change next year where a teacher rotates classrooms?

- Typically students start to rotate classrooms at these grade levels to meet the varied student learning levels, socialize with different peers, and provide access to teachers who are content experts. After families make their model preference selections we will work on the logistics to avoid large numbers of students gathering in the hallways at one time.

What does the academic learning lab look like and how will it be engaging?

- The learning lab will be a space where students, who will sit six feet apart, can go to work on assignments, projects and readings for other classes. In addition, students can call into their classroom to observe live lessons at this time and can collaborate with peers in the room. This room will be supervised by a school employee and there will be plans for regular physically distant ‘brain breaks’ so students do not sit the entire time.

Will students share school supplies?

- If students need to share school supplies there will be a designated area in each classroom to collect after being used. The item will then be cleaned prior to another student using the item.

Academics

What are the plans about standardized testing?

- ASU Prep will continue to provide formative and summative assessments throughout the school year. These assessments are necessary to provide a snapshot into a student’s learning allowing teachers to best teach their class. In quarter four of the last school year we had over 90% of our students complete the end of year assessments. In addition, we will continue to monitor the guidance from the Arizona Department of Education about the statewide achievement tests.
Will my high school student still earn the credits they need to graduate?

- In all models ASU Prep remains committed to the same academic rigor we have been known for. We will not compromise learning. ASU Prep will remain dedicated to personalized mastery-based learning, preparing each student toward success in college, careers, and life.

ASU Prep is well known for preparing students for college, how will these models impact this? In person - this is college prep - what considerations are being addressed to make sure this meets college entrance?

- Students attending any of the models will still prepare students for college. We remain steadfast in our commitment to, “Prep for college. Prep for careers. Prep for life.”

What if I need technology?

- For students attending ASU Prep Casa Grande, Phoenix, Polytechnic, and South Phoenix Campuses we will provide the technology needed for your student to learn.

Will there be schedules for parents to use throughout the day and week if we choose hybrid or community based digital?

- Yes, we will provide sample schedules for students to use throughout the week to guide their learning.

What will preschool look like next school year?

- This will vary depending on the school. Please reach out to your school to discuss.

What will extracurricular activities look like next year?

- The extracurricular activities are still being determined. We look forward to sharing this information with you as soon as it is available.

Will the students have recess in the in-person and hybrid models?

- We will provide ‘brain breaks’ and physical stretch breaks within the classroom and recess breaks for students grades K-5.

Will students still have specials?

- We will do our best to ensure that specials are offered. The length of time and frequency will vary by school. This information will be shared later this summer.
Health and Safety

What will it look like when my child comes in person?

- Students will arrive at staggered start times by grade. Parents/guardians will stay in their vehicle with their child until they arrive at the identified unloading site. Students/parents review the 5 health screening questions to indicate that they are asymptomatic and they will have their temperature taken. Any child with a temperature over 100.4 will be sent home with their parent/guardian before moving into the school. Additional information will be coming from your specific school site.

What are the 5 health screening questions?

1. Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
2. Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours?
3. Are you experiencing any new respiratory symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath?
4. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
5. Have you experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?

How will you ensure children hand wash after bathroom usage?

- Teachers have procedures in place for students to wash their hands throughout the day. Special attention is given after bathroom breaks, before and after lunch and before and after transitions within the school.

Will there be temperature checks throughout the day or only at the beginning of the day?

- Only at the beginning of the day unless a child presents with symptoms during the day at which time they will be isolated in the nurse’s office and assessed.

Will my child be required to wear a face covering?

- Students in grade levels 1st - 12th will be required to wear a face covering. Students in Preschool and Kindergarten will not be required to wear a face covering. If you have a child in Preschool and Kindergarten, you do have the option to send them to school with a cloth face covering.

Will the masks need to match the school uniforms?

- No student masks will not need to match the school uniform. Masks will need to match the guidelines for school uniforms (no inappropriate images or logos).
What will you do if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

- Student confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Parents will be notified if a positive case were in their child’s school. Site leadership will be notified and disinfecting of affected areas will be done. We will move students to another area of the school to maintain the education of those in school without interruption or health risk.

Is there a plan if COVID continues to climb and there is another shut down?

- The models we are offering will allow us to pivot to a fully virtual environment quickly without loss of instructional time. Plans are in place to make this shift quickly if necessary. We will follow all guidance from the local county health department and the Arizona Department of Education.

If students present with fevers or COVID-19 like symptoms while at school will they be removed immediately?

- If a student becomes sick during the school day, they will be isolated, assessed by the nurse, and sent home.

What will be the max ratio in a classroom?

- The max ratio will be based on the classroom size. We will place student desks and tables in the room so that students are each six feet apart and we will work with students on educating them and setting expectations around physical distancing. For example, in some spaces this could be 9 students in a classroom and another it could be 19 students in a classroom.

Will parents be allowed on campus for volunteer work or to walk children to their class?

- We ask parents to not come on campus unless you have made an appointment. We will not utilize volunteers at this time in order to control the number of people in contact with students and reduce the risk of the spread of the virus. If parents come on campus with an appointment, they will have their temperature checked and they will need to answer the health screening questions. Additionally, they will need to wear a face covering.

Will parents be able to visit the front office / school?

- Parents will be asked to schedule any school related business through an online portal. When the parent arrives at the school, a staff member will permit them into the building and they will have their temperature checked and answer the health screening questions. Physical distancing, face coverings, and other personal protective equipment requirements will be followed. Siblings are discouraged from coming to school with their parents.
What are the drop-off and pick-up procedures?

- The school Principal will email the “Return to School” plan that will include drop off/pick up procedures, temperature screening check points, and parent/student behavior expectations. This information will also be included in the orientation videos.

How will lunch be handled?

- Students will eat lunch in their classroom following proper hand washing etiquette and physical distancing measures.

Special Education Services and 504 Accommodations

Will special education services and 504 accommodations be available in any of the models that a family chooses?

- Yes. Regardless of the model that a student participates in, special education services and 504 accommodations will be provided. Additionally, the Friday CIA Time could be used to provide interventions, if needed.

What if there are goals on the IEP that do not work in the new model?

- IEP teams and 504 teams will have the opportunity to meet to make any adjustments to the plans as needed. Some goals were not written to be met in the virtual environment and those will need to be adjusted. Many goals are able to work in a blended or virtual environment and those can stay the same.

How will therapy (speech, OT, counseling) be offered?

- Services can be offered in different ways. Teams in a hybrid environment can decide which day makes sense for therapy, e.g. maybe on virtual day of learning to not interfere with in-person classroom time. Teletherapy, the provision of services in a virtual environment, will be available for the students that require it and those who it is a match for their goals and needs.

What considerations are being made for students who did not make progress on their goals in 4th quarter?

- Conversations with teachers and parents will happen at the beginning of the school year regarding each student’s unique situation. Plans will be developed to meet the needs of each student as appropriate.
Do we need to have an IEP/504 meeting at the start of school?

- No. If the IEP/504 is current and the goals can be implemented in the chosen model, a meeting is not necessary.

How will IEP/504 meetings be held?

- To the greatest extent possible we will maintain the use of Zoom for our meetings. If a parent feels that they can only participate in-person, appointments and arrangements will be made to accommodate this request.

What if I have questions now about my child’s services?

- Teachers will return from summer break on July 27th. If you have questions before that, you can contact Janet Holt, Director of Special Education at janet.holt@asu.edu