



*Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District No. 6*  
*1 N. Willard St.*  
*Cottonwood, AZ 86326*  
*(928) 634-2288*

Steve King,  
Superintendent

David Snyder,  
Director of Business Services

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March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Cottonwood-Oak Creek Families,

As we enter our third week of school closure, I want to give you an update on where things stand with your district. Today, Governor Doug Ducey announced school closures through the end of this school year. While many things are still uncertain, you can be certain that the staff and faculty of Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District remain committed to our students, families, and community.

However, this does not mean that your schools are shut down, or that your faculty and staff are not working hard for you and the children of our community. I speak for all District Staff when I tell you that we are looking forward to seeing your children back in August. Please understand that we have been planning accordingly these past two weeks and are ready to continue your child's education remotely.

#### **Remote Learning Platform**

Today, our updated remote learning platform for students and families went active. It has been the creative and timely work of all of our faculty to develop accessible, meaningful, and engaging educational activities for you and your children to use together at home. You will find it on our website and Facebook page or through the direct link below:

<https://sites.google.com/cocsd.k12.az.us/cocsd-remote-learning-platform/home>

We are hopeful that this learning platform will become part of your daily routine working with your child's teacher. If you have any questions or feedback, or need assistance, please contact your teacher.

One of the challenges of the past two weeks has been to create equitable educational opportunities for all of our kids. Many of our families do not have access to computers or internet service. To meet this challenge, your district technology department has prepared and loaned families nearly 200 laptops. We have also been seeking partnerships with local internet providers to provide low/no cost solutions to expand the availability of Wi-Fi so that all families can get connected to their education.

#### **Food Services**

Since the closure began, our Sodexo Food Service Department has served over 5000 meals to Cottonwood's kids across the district. Prepared by our dedicated cafeteria staff, most of these meals have been delivered on our buses by our drivers, paraprofessionals, volunteers, teachers, sheriff's deputies, juvenile probation officers, and administrators. They have also delivered schoolwork and more than a 1000 new books, which were given to the children of our community by Verde Valley First Books.

*"Preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century through tradition, experience, innovation and opportunity."*

**Governing Board Members:**

**Eric Marcus 🍏 Mindy Bejarano 🍏 Janice Rollins**  
**Neil Manzenberger 🍏 Mary Valenzuela**

### **Facilities**

Our Facilities Department has been in extended time of deep cleaning. Our schools have never been more squared away in our more than 120-year history. They are also making extra efforts to maintain our District's facilities conducting preventative maintenance. If circumstances change, we are ready to reopen at any time.

### **Health & Community**

Your District Health Department has partnered closely with physicians, Yavapai County Community Health Services, and Verde Valley Medical Center, sharing information and planning for contingencies that were unimaginable a month ago.

We are filled with gratitude for the open lines of communication with our local and county governments. We thank Cottonwood Mayor Tim Elinski and Yavapai County Supervisor Randy Garrison for their leadership these past two weeks. We would also like to thank Cottonwood's Fire Chief Mike Kuykendall and Police Chief Steve Gessell, and Lieutenant Brent Kimbriel of Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

### **The Road Ahead**

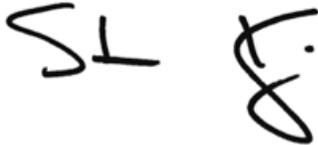
I believe that when we return to our buses, classrooms, gyms, libraries, playgrounds and cafeterias in August, we will have been profoundly changed, and in a good way. We will be empowered with the confidence that we can indeed make a positive difference in the lives and direction of our community. Having grown deeper kinship with our kids, we will forge lasting and enduring bonds with the students and families we serve.

This week our district administrator and principals will be working on protocols for grades, report cards and transitioning to the next grade level. Look for more information from the district later this week.

Though the days ahead will be difficult and not without sacrifice, I believe that our community will emerge from this crisis stronger, and that as Abraham Lincoln wrote: "The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or needs, sking @cocsd.k12.az.us or (928) 634-2288 Ext, 1144.

In Your Service,

Handwritten signature of Steve King, consisting of the letters 'SL' followed by a stylized 'K'.

Steve King, Superintendent

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