

## The Keystone Montessori Mission:

To inspire in children a passion for a lifelong love of learning in an environment which nurtures independence, creativity, confidence and tolerance while developing a sense of responsibility for self and community based on the principles and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori.

Dear Keystone Families,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Keystone's mission has remained unchanged. Our work to inspire in our students a passion and lifelong love of learning is the cornerstone of all we do. Over the last eleven months we have faced significant challenges in the necessary transition to distance learning, and through it all, our staff remains steadfast in the commitment to keeping our community safe by following the guidelines of state and local health officials. Above all else, throughout this ongoing health crisis, we have harnessed incredible strength from your continued support and dedication to our school community.

While current COVID-19 metrics are currently in the substantial spread category and virtual learning remains the recommended platform, the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine and the prioritization of teachers and school staff to receive the vaccine is a new factor that must now be considered. The Keystone Administration and Board of Directors continue to work together to monitor the data and are reviewing the Keystone safety protocols and Mitigation Plan currently in place. As we strive to return to in-person instruction, it is imperative that these protocols are aligned with any updates to the guidelines issued by the CDC and state and local health departments.

In addition to diligent monitoring of the COVID-19 metrics provided by AZDHS and the review of our Mitigation Plan, we are taking into consideration the vaccination availability and scheduling for our teachers and staff as one part of our decision to safely welcome students back to in-person instruction. As a reminder, Keystone has committed to offer distance learning for our students throughout the 2020-21 school year. It is our continued hope that as many students as possible are able to safely return to campus.

To assist us in our efforts, please complete this [brief survey](#). We value your feedback. The data gathered will help us in our preparations for continued distance learning and the probable return to in-person instruction at the conclusion of our Spring Break, or earlier provided the metrics return the moderate/yellow transmission benchmarks.

Our commitment to the safety of our community, students and staff is our top priority as we work to fulfill our educational mission. Each of you have unique needs and circumstances and as always, we appreciate your input. We will continue to put your safety first, support you, and respect the decisions that work best for you and your children. Thank you for your continued understanding, and we appreciate your time completing [our survey](#).

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura & Mr. Stefan