



Greetings ACPA family,

ACPA will be starting the 2020-2021 school year in an all online, digital model. The all digital model includes scheduled, live classes for all students in grades 7 through 12. This model will run from September 1 through December 18, 2020. We will continue to be responsive to local and state COVID-19 data and may implement a hybrid model in this time frame if there is a *drastic, positive* change in virus transmission trends.

Here is some context to the decision:

Our Collective Health – ACPA administration has spent the summer exploring a variety of building modifications and schedules that would support a hybrid education model with some students in the building and some learning at home on a rotating schedule. We have examined numerous safety measures and would be committed to fully implementing social-distancing, sanitizing, mask-wearing and other safety measures. However, given the current pandemic data trends, we are not confident that even at 100% implementation of these protocols, we are capable of keeping the virus from spreading in our community should we begin the year in a hybrid model. As always, the health and safety of our entire school community is the top priority in decision making.

Stakeholder Data

Throughout the summer, administration has been gathering data, both formally through surveys and informally through conversations, from the ACPA community including parents, staff, teachers and community partners. The majority of collected data supports returning to school in a digital model. Also based on this data, I think it is fair to say that the entire ACPA community *wants* students back in the building, but also recognizes that the risk does not outweigh the benefit at this time. Another resounding point collected from data is that live classes are needed in a digital model -- this is a large part of this plan

High Quality Education – ACPA staff has been working throughout the summer to ensure that our students have access to an equitable and exceptional academic and arts education while also addressing student wellness needs in the midst of the pandemic. We cannot yet see a hybrid



model that does not heavily compromise a teacher's ability to teach and educate because a large percentage of the vigilance and enforcement of added safety protocols would fall on the classroom teacher. At this time our teachers will be able to serve students best in an all digital model where facilitating instruction can be the top priority.

Consistency and Peace of Mind – We want to be able to implement the model that is safest for our students. It is our priority to implement a model that is progressive, accessible and meaningful. By committing to a digital model for the entire first semester, we feel that we are giving our students and teachers a chance to not only get started and adjusted to a new model in the first few weeks of school, but also the chance to do some amazing and innovative things with that model. ACPA staff is dedicated to ensuring that a virtual model will consistently serve all students in academic and arts classes.

Some Things to Look Forward To – One thing that our staff has been focused on when developing the virtual plan is ensuring that the climate and culture of ACPA is maintained as much as possible through this model. This means that students will have engaging arts and academic classes, clubs and other opportunities for social engagement online. We will also be having a weekly "ACPA Hour" that will serve as a school wide assembly time for class meetings, round table and panel discussions, guest artists, student performances, community engagement, and much more. This is a program we have been planning for some time now and are excited to roll it out in the digital model. As a test for implementing a hybrid model in the future, during Term 2, ACPA will be piloting some exciting opportunities for students to come to the building individually or in small groups to work on specific projects. There is a lot to look forward to!

The fall digital plan will have more rigorous expectations than the spring model, and I want to stress the importance of the group effort that will be necessary to make this digital model successful. In the digital model, students will be required to be logged in and ready for class at specific times. This includes a new period called *Home Base*. Home Base is designed to be a time for students and their Home Base teacher to work on time management and planning for asynchronous learning time and have general check-ins and problem-solving time. This will be a key component of a successful digital model. A collective effort and commitment from staff, students, and parents to engage fully in the digital model will be crucial in ensuring its success and that education continues in a meaningful and engaging way.



And finally, on a personal note, I want to thank the entire community for your input, patience and understanding as we navigate this immense change in the educational landscape. We are dedicated to ensuring that our students' education continues through the pandemic and maintaining ACPA as the school that our community knows it to be - safe, inclusive and progressive. Please contact us if you have any questions or need assistance with transitioning to the new virtual model this fall.

Sincerely,

Anthony Gatto
Executive Director

