



## **Flagstaff Junior Academy's School Opening Plan: 2021-2022**

### **Plan Overview**

This plan outlines Flagstaff Junior Academy's COVID-19 mitigation measures and operational strategies for the 2021-2022 school year (2021-2022 SY). The plan prioritizes the safety and well-being of students, staff, and families, and it recognizes the benefits of in-person learning.

The plan is a working document, meaning that it is a responsive plan that can be revised due to changing health circumstances within our school and community (transmission levels, vaccination coverage, occurrence of outbreaks, etc.). The plan can also be revised due to improved medical knowledge and scientific understandings of COVID-19.

The plan is based upon the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), state laws and executive orders, as well as stakeholder input. As a school receiving ESSER III funds through the federal American Rescue Plan, FJA will make the final version of this plan available on its website and update it at least every six months.

### **Instructional Model**

Flagstaff Junior Academy (FJA) will begin the 2021-2022 SY with in-person learning as its exclusive instructional model. Depending upon changes in our school's and community's health circumstances, FJA may offer a remote learning and/or hybrid instructional model during the 2021-2022 SY.

### **Mitigation Measures and Operational Strategies**

FJA will rely on all staff, students, and families to support consistent implementation of the layered prevention strategies listed below to reduce COVID-19 transmission in our school. Learn more about the CDC's School guidance here:

**<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>**

<p><b>Vaccination</b></p>	<p>Many of FJA’s students are not eligible for vaccination due to their age. Other students who are eligible and/or staff may not get vaccinated due to individual preference.</p> <p>FJA will support its students and staff in their individual vaccination efforts by accommodating absences needed for appointments or illness due to vaccination-related side effects.</p>
<p><b>Face Coverings/ Masks</b></p>	<p>Following the FJA Governing Board decision on August 16, 2021, all students, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks while indoors on school property until September 29, 2021.</p> <p>For more mask guidance, including requesting an exemption, please click the link below:  <a href="https://fjacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Mask-Mandate-Guidance-Updated-1-1.pdf">https://fjacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Mask-Mandate-Guidance-Updated-1-1.pdf</a></p> <p>Masks are available to any student or staff who needs them.</p>
<p><b>Cohorting</b></p>	<p>Since full implementation of physical distancing guidelines is difficult with students in small classrooms, a cohort model will be adopted for students during the school day. A cohort model reduces the variability of student interactions throughout the day and, as a result, limits possible COVID-19 exposure.</p> <p>For all students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, each classroom will serve as its own cohort when indoors. Outdoor spaces (lunch areas and fields) will be cohorted by grade range (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, etc.).</p> <p>One exception to this class-level cohort model will be our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Those cohorts will be broader due to the nature of middle school class changes and scheduling.</p>
<p><b>Physical Distancing</b></p>	<p>When indoors, observe a minimum of 3 feet separation from others when possible. The CDC recommends that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies.</p> <p>There will be times when students cannot be physically distanced 3 or more feet inside. That is why layered prevention strategies</p>

	<p>are important (cohorting, mask-wearing, COVID-19 pooled testing/screenings, etc.).</p>
<p><b>Pooled Testing</b></p>	<p>Participate in the Concentric’s and Arizona Department of Health Services’ School Pooled Testing Initiative for students in kindergarten and older. Pooled testing will begin on September 15, 2021. This initiative is free to all Arizona schools and takes less than 15 minutes per week to implement.</p> <p>First, families of students will “opt-in” their child(ren). Then, students each do a simple short nose swab each week. All swabs from one classroom are sent out to the lab for screening. The results for each classroom pool of swabs comes back usually within 24-36 hours and provides valuable information about the status of COVID health and wellness in our school.</p> <p>Screening testing identifies infected people, including those with or without symptoms (or before development of symptoms) who may be contagious, so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Learn more information about pooled testing here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.concentricbyginkgo.com/">https://www.concentricbyginkgo.com/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/pooling-procedures.html</a></p> <p>Families can sign up their child for pooled testing by clicking the link below and entering the access code “FJA2021”:</p> <p><a href="https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent/">https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent/</a></p>
<p><b>Ventilation</b></p>	<p>Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. To the extent that weather and physical spaces permits, FJA classrooms will improve classroom airflow by opening doors and windows and/or using child-safe fans to exhaust classroom air and increase the effectiveness of open windows (dilution). FJA will make sure that air filtration systems are inspected and filters replaced every three months or as the filter manufacturer recommends (whichever is sooner). FJA will use ESSER III grant dollars to further enhance school ventilation with portable HEPA</p>

	<p>air filters in every classroom. Portable filters will be in classrooms by the first week of September. Research shows that combining dilution strategies with portable air filters reduce COVID-19 transmission rates. See CDC guidance on school ventilation below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/ventilation.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/ventilation.html</a></p>
<p><b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette</b></p>	<p>Students and staff will practice hygienic handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses such as COVID-19.</p> <p>FJA will explicitly teach proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to students. FJA staff and students will properly wash hands multiple times each day and staff will assist young children with handwashing.</p> <p>When handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be used for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring Symptoms and Staying Home When Sick</b></p>	<p>Before a student arrives at school, parents/guardians are required to monitor their children for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Likewise, staff are required to monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms. These symptoms include but are not limited to the following: a temperature above 100.4 degrees, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, body aches, and fatigue). See the link below for additional symptoms.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html</a></p> <p>Students who have COVID-like symptoms will need to stay home until symptoms improve, they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and have a negative COVID test. Please see full “Stay Home When Sick/Return to School” guidance, by clicking on the link below:</p> <p><a href="https://fjademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Release-from-Isolation-Guidance-1.pdf">https://fjademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Release-from-Isolation-Guidance-1.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b></p>	<p>Families should inform the school if their child(ren) have been exposed to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19 or if their child(ren) have tested positive for COVID-19. Likewise, staff should inform the school of any exposures or positive testing. All information will be kept confidential.</p> <p>FJA will work in conjunction with our local county health department, CCHHS, to communicate positive staff and student cases so that they can conduct contact tracing.</p> <p>FJA will follow the guidelines set out by the ADHS for isolation and quarantine to determine when students or staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 or who have tested positive can return to school.</p> <p>The decision to quarantine a class, close a portion of the school, or close one or both campuses entirely is made in close coordination with the local health department.</p> <p>The most recent ADHS Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine can be found in full at the link below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/documents/public-health-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf">https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/documents/public-health-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Communication</b></p>	<p>Positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff will be shared with the FJA community via an update in the weekly newsletter.</p> <p>Those students who are identified as a close contact to the individual who tested positive will be contacted as soon as possible directly from the school via our mass text messaging system.</p> <p>All communication to FJA families and staff regarding a confirmed COVID-19 individual must and will be communicated by the front office; other staff members will not communicate to parents, students, other staff the name or any identifying information about the individual who tested positive. This is a clear violation of that person’s privacy, and employees could be subject to staff disciplinary action.</p>

<b>Cleaning and Disinfection</b>	Staff and students may be expected to clean and disinfect personal workspaces and materials as they are used. Teachers will have some discretion, but it is required that high touch areas (such as tabletops, desks, doorknobs, etc.) be cleaned every time a new group of students enters the classroom.
<b>Instructional Grouping</b>	Flexible groups, small groups, paired groups, etc., is allowed within each classroom and/or grade-range cohort. For example, a student in Ms. Conways's class can participate in differentiated math rotations in Ms. Cernohous' classroom.  FJA will encourage outdoor instruction, snack breaks, etc., as appropriate.
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>	Sharing of materials is allowed within each classroom and/or grade-range cohort with proper handwashing mitigation measures in place.
<b>Before and After Care</b>	FJA's Before and After Care will resume at its Cedar Campus.  Staff will increase the amount of time spent outdoors (snacks, games, playground, etc.). When indoors, staff will aim to keep students belonging to the same cohorts physically distanced from students in other cohorts. When student numbers are large and/or staff numbers are not sufficient to maintain cohorts, students participating in Before and After Care will need to wear masks. Please make sure that your child has a mask on hand for those instances.
<b>Athletics and Extracurricular Activities</b>	Athletics and extracurricular activities will follow the same guidelines as set forth in this plan under most circumstances. Cohorting for middle school sports will not be possible. Special events and field trips will be considered on a case-by-case basis and require approval from the Executive Director.
<b>Water Fountains</b>	Water fountains will be for filling water bottles only. No one should drink from the drinking fountains. All students are required to bring their own reusable water bottle. Students who do not have a bottle will be given a paper cup to use for the day.
<b>Middle School Lockers</b>	Lockers will be available for use on a limited basis for 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders beginning at the end of August.
<b>Visitors and Volunteers</b>	Visitors must report immediately to the school office.

	<p>We welcome volunteers for outdoor events and field trips. Classroom volunteers may be allowed on a limited basis and require approval from the Executive Director.</p>
<p><b>Drop-Off and Pick-Up</b></p>	<p><b>Cedar Campus Drop-Off:</b>  Students can be dropped off between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. and report to the following location as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mondays and Wednesdays: Conway, Cernohous, and Heinsius students report to playground; all other classes report to classrooms</li> <li>• Tuesdays and Thursdays: Bax, Cole, and Peterson/Arigaki students report to playground; all other classes report to classrooms</li> <li>• Fridays: All cohorts report to classrooms</li> <li>• Children’s House staff will meet students in parking lot</li> </ul> <p><b>Cedar Campus Pick-Up:</b>  Pick-up time will be from 3:00-3:15 Mon-Thur and 12:00-12:15 on Fridays for all cohorts.</p> <p><b>Bonito Campus Drop-Off (7:45-8:00 a.m.):</b>  Drop-off is from 7:45-8:00 a.m. and pick up is at 3:15 Mondays through Thursdays and at 12:15 p.m. on Friday. We will start the school year off with our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders entering the building through our main, Bonito Street, entrance. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders should enter school through the gymnasium entrance on Thorpe Road.</p> <p>Schoolwide Morning Meeting occurrence will depend upon COVID-conditions and may vary throughout the year.</p> <p><b>Bonito Campus Pick-Up (3:15-3:30 p.m.; Fridays-12:15-12:30):</b>  All middle school students should be picked up at Thorpe Road entrance.</p>