



## DESERT SKY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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[dsms.vailschooldistrict.org](https://dsms.vailschooldistrict.org)

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Dear Desert Sky Families,

Superintendent Carruth shared in his previous correspondence that we are targeting September 21st as the date for when we will transition to the Hybrid Learning Phase of opening schools. Like most things during the COVID pandemic, this assumes that conditions continue to improve and do not get worse.

As we begin our next phase of learning I want to ensure that you are informed of what the Hybrid and Brick to Click models will look like on our campus.

### **What is Hybrid Learning?**

Hybrid learning is a mix of in person learning and at home Remote Learning. To ensure that physical distancing is maximized in classrooms and in school shared spaces, students will be cohorted and grouped into an A or B group based on your student's last name. "A" group students will physically attend DSMS on Monday and Wednesday and will continue with Remote Learning on Tuesday and Thursday. "B" group students will physically attend DSMS on Tuesday and Thursday and will continue with Remote Learning on Monday and Wednesday. Both A and B groups will continue to have their asynchronous learning day on Friday. On Friday's, students will remotely complete Formatives and/or Remote Schoology lessons for classes completed at your child's pace (no live video Conferences).

### **What materials will my child need for Hybrid Learning?**

School issued Chromebooks will be distributed to all students for use while on campus. Students will not be permitted to use personal devices on campus as personal devices are not permitted on the Desert Sky School networks. Students who have not done so already must complete and

return the Middle School Insurance form (accepting or declining coverage) as well as the Middle School Responsible Use Policy. Please be sure your child comes to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger everyday he/she is physically on campus.

**What is the difference between Hybrid Learning and Brick to Click (B2C)?**

Hybrid students will receive two days of on-campus in-person instruction through Schoology and three days of off-campus Remote Learning instruction through Schoology each week. B2C students will receive five days of off-campus Remote Learning instruction through Schoology each week. Students participating in BTC must remain as a BTC student for the duration of the Hybrid Learning Phase.

**Will my child's schedule be different during hybrid learning?**

Yes, our master schedule will be adjusted during the Hybrid Learning Phase. This change will apply to all students (students attending school under the Hybrid Model and for our B2C students). Our Hybrid students will physically attend school on their assigned days from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please note that the physical school day ends at 2:00 p.m. during hybrid learning. Students must get on the bus, walk home, or be picked up at 2:00 p.m. Students may have work to complete remotely from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. if their classwork was not completed during the school day and/or if your student participates in a specialized program. Teachers will be available to support our B2C students between 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.. We will be sending out an updated daily team schedule next week. All students will need to follow the updated daily team schedule starting on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**What will my child's school day look like on the days that he/she is physically on campus?**

Students that are on campus will follow the Remote Learning structure. Teachers will support students as needed in class and reteach classes will occur during the Literacy Skills period.

**What will my child's school day look like on the days that he/she is not physically on campus?**

We will continue to follow the Remote Learning structure your child has become accustomed to during Hybrid Learning. Students will still log into their teachers' live Conference at the beginning of each class and then work through the Schoology lessons posted for the day. Teachers will not have office hours during Literacy Skills as students will physically be in their classrooms at that time. Teachers will have office hours each day between 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## Hybrid Cohort Groups

Students will be split into two groups (A & B) based on the first letter of their last name. Students in group A will attend school on campus on Mondays and Wednesdays and students in group B will attend school on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To create consistency in our groupings, the groups were separated at different points in the alphabet for each team. Please see the chart below for which group your child will be in. **We will work with families to ensure that all students from the same family attend school on the same days. Please contact Stacey Couzens at [couzenss@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:couzenss@vailschooldistrict.org) if you have children at Desert Sky or at other schools who are scheduled to attend school on different days. All other requests cannot be accepted at this time.**

Desert Sky Hybrid Groups		
Advisory Teacher	Group A (Monday and Wednesday)	Group B (Tuesday and Thursday)
6th Grade: James, Jeffries, Olvera, Smith-Dryden, Thach, Thorpe	A-J	K-Z
6th Grade: Crabtree, K. Hill, and Willard	A-L	M-Z
7th grade: Taylor Murray (Moore), Tanner	A-K	L-Z
7th grade: Andreotta, T. Hill	A-G	H-Z
7th grade: Isaac, Little, Tina Murray, Nussmeier	A-H	I-Z
7th grade: Jackson, Ricciardelli	A-K	L-Z
8th grade: Gremel, Vera	A-K	L-Z
8th grade: Bustamante, Edwards, Jordan, Rojas	A-K	L-Z
8th grade: Abrigo, Costa, Galvan, Sapp	A-J	K-Z

It is important to note that every staff member and student on our campus will be required to perform a daily wellness check at home, wear a face covering on campus, and have their temperature taken before entering campus every morning. I encourage you to read through our *A*

*School Day at Desert Sky Information* on our website to learn more about the home daily wellness check and other safety protocols we have in place at Desert Sky.

<https://dsms.vailschooldistrict.org/school-day/>

If you have not already completed the "Hybrid Learning Phase" survey for each child at Desert Sky, the survey will close Sunday, September 13th. The link can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOIHHaB8f9kq9\\_WNZQmT1pZ0f4Vj3F53-13h8HrZ0PoyvBw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOIHHaB8f9kq9_WNZQmT1pZ0f4Vj3F53-13h8HrZ0PoyvBw/viewform)

If you plan on having your child physically attend DSMS during the Hybrid Learning Phase, please see the letter on our shared responsibility below. As a condition of returning to In-person/ On-campus learning parents/guardians will need to sign an acknowledgement form prior to the start of the In-person Hybrid option. This is a stipulation put forth by the District's insurance. The electronic version that needs to be signed will be emailed next week.

We hope you continue to stay well and we look forward to partnering with you during this next phase of learning.

Sincerely,  
Katie Dabney  
Principal



Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Vail School District is working closely with the District's general liability insurance provider, The Trust, to notify families of a new COVID-19 liability insurance purchased by Vail School District that becomes effective immediately. The new COVID-19 liability insurance offers Vail School District and other Arizona school districts coverage for any COVID-19 issues or claims.

A requirement of the new COVID-19 liability insurance coverage is that a parent or guardian of each student must read the attached form entitled, *COVID-19 Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement and Disclosure*.

It is important that you read this form carefully, initial all sections, sign it, and return it to us BEFORE the start of hybrid-learning when students return to school.

At a time when so much misinformation is circulating, we want you to clearly understand your responsibilities—and our objectives—when it comes to the safety of our students, families, teachers, and staff.

While the form may seem long and detailed, the messages are those you've heard before:

- **You must take your temperature every day before getting on a school bus or arriving at school. (A temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher is considered a fever.)**
- **If your child, any siblings who attend a District school, or any adults who are District employees become sick, all students and District employees must stay home.**
- **If you, your student, or anyone in your household comes into contact with someone who may have COVID-19, or who tests positive for COVID-19, you must let the school office know.**

The form also confirms the District's intent to:

- **Observe students for symptoms that could indicate a coronavirus infection.**
- **Remain aware of changes in Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Pima County Health Department guidelines, and to follow the guidance of the CDC, the county health department, and the Arizona Department of Health Services.**

Thank you for being a trusted school partner and for helping us stay vigilant against this very serious illness. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Cervantez, Chief Administrative Officer, Vail School District, at [CervantezL@vailschooldistrict.org](mailto:CervantezL@vailschooldistrict.org) or 520-879-2062.

Sincerely,

**The Trust**

**Vail School District**