



Today's Scholars – Tomorrow's Global Visionaries

Dear AMS Parents,

This is an update on the AMS Schools mask policy. The data collected following the August 17, 2021 AMS mask requirement shows decreased positive COVID-19 cases and a lower number of scholar quarantines. This information demonstrates that masks have been an effective contributing factor in reducing positive cases and quarantines in AMS schools. We hope these numbers continue to decrease.

On September 27, 2021, Arizona Superior Court Judge Katherine Cooper ruled in favor of school district/charter control over mask requirements. As such, we have taken the time to carefully review our mask requirement by considering school data, scholar needs, and CDC guidance. AMS Schools will continue to require masks for scholars, staff, and visitors while indoors at all school sites moving forward.

AMS remains committed to supporting the diverse needs of our community to help keep scholars safe and healthy while at school. We are confident that the universal wearing of masks in school supports this goal.

While teaching and learning in a mask is not ideal, quarantines recommended by county health departments and students missing school due to COVID-19 illness presents even more significant learning disruptions. These disruptions to learning defeat our goal of keeping scholars in classrooms where they learn and grow best.

AMS Schools continue to maintain a multi-layered approach to COVID mitigation. All AMS scholars and staff make a personal commitment to complete a health self-assessment every day and refrain from attending school if any COVID-like symptoms arise. We continue to require routine handwashing, social distancing when possible, cohorting, electrostatic cleaning, contact-tracing, isolation, and quarantining as recommended by the Maricopa and Pima County Departments of Public Health.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of student success and health.

Kim Chayka
Academies of Math and Science
Co-CEO