May 7, 2021

Dear PVSchools Families and Staff,

As we reflect on a very difficult year, we are grateful for our parents, staff, administrators, and community members who continue to support our efforts to help students achieve their highest potential. With nine days remaining in the school year, we want to thank you for your continued support of our mask requirement, which has contributed to our ability to hold many of our end-of-year traditions like high school graduations, sixth-grade and eighth-grade clap outs, and performing arts concerts.

The CDC recently issued new guidance for people who are fully vaccinated. This information provides evidence that as more and more people get vaccinated, our community can accelerate the return to normal. Hospitalizations are down significantly from their January highs and, with few exceptions, those who are still being hospitalized with COVID-19 are adult individuals who have not been vaccinated. Arizona continues to vaccinate all individuals ages 16 and older at locations found through the Maricopa County Department of Public Health website.

Over the past few weeks, we received many inquiries about our plans for the start of school this fall. In anticipation of vaccine availability for children ages 12 to 15 being announced as early as next week, and the potential for vaccinations for younger children as early as the fall, we plan to start the 2021-2022 school year with masks optional. We also plan to review, and if necessary update, our current mitigation strategies in preparation for the upcoming school year. Of course, we will continue to monitor federal, state, and local health recommendations and will notify families and staff if adjustments to this plan become necessary.

Please take the time to enjoy the remainder of this challenging school year and join us in celebrating the incredible accomplishments of our students! And, thank you in advance, for helping us remain focused on teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. James P. Lee
Acting Superintendent

Dr. Troy J. Bales
Incoming Superintendent