



Anser Charter School

May 21, 2020

Re: Anser School Covid Response Update

Dear Families,

The Anser community has been the vision of crew and support during this time of uncertainty. We are honored and proud of the outreach and connection staff, parents and students made to each other in a time when we were all so disconnected.

As the Anser school leaders, we and our staff are in the midst of planning for next year and the future of our community and all the young people we serve. The Anser Board of Directors and staff have worked to be responsive to the constantly shifting Covid-19 environment. As we look to planning for the fall, we imagine a school year unlike any of us have ever seen. During these unprecedented times, Anser is reviewing all processes to ensure they are responsive to the needs of our families and staff. Health, safety, and learning are top priorities. We have information to share about this year and next and will be sending updates over the summer as plans are developed to address the Covid-19 environment and its impact on how we do school.

End of the Year Info

Crew Cruise - May 21st:

Can you believe this is our last week of school? It has been disheartening for all of us to miss our traditional end of year celebrations, but we hope you will plan to join us for the Crew Cruise celebration! We will end this year strong and do it in a way that exemplifies CREW! Here is a link to the [Crew Cruise](#) details.

Locker and Cubby Clean Out/Chromebook Drop Off:

Beginning May 26th, parents/guardians will return borrowed Chromebooks and pickup students' personal items from lockers and cubbies. These dates, times, and procedures will allow for safe social distancing while picking up necessary items from school. Here is a link for the [specific details](#) on how the process will work.

Report Cards:

K-6th Grade Students:

The Kindergarten through 6th-grade staff has agreed that Trimester 2 Report Cards that went home March 10th will be the final report card for this school year. Due to equity concerns, we believe that it is not right to assess during this last trimester. Our focus for remote learning was connecting with families and maintaining the academic gains that your student has made this school year. Our staff will be ready for your child when we are all back together! No need for you to make sure they are "ready." It is our job as educators, to be ready for ALL students!



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Jr High Students:

In April we communicated with Junior High families about Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 grades. We adjusted our grading practices to best meet the demands of the current situation we are in and prioritized student needs. The following steps were taken:

- Students will receive a Semester 2 Report Card at the end of the year showing the cumulative Overall Achievement grade of Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. This semester grade will match your 3rd quarter grade.

Although we are making these changes the following will not change:

- Jr High students enrolled in Spanish 1 and Integrated Algebra will receive the high school credit.
- Transcripts will look no different than any other school year.

Next School Year at Anser

Early Start - August 25th:

In order to [best serve the learning of our students](#), the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year has been updated in response to Covid-19. Anser's typical start time of the Tuesday after Labor Day will shift to Tuesday, August 25th.

We sent out an anonymous survey for you to complete. Let us know through [this survey](#), based on what you know now if there is a reason your child would not be able to attend during these additional two weeks of school.

Expansion Plans:

Due to Covid-19, Anser's construction project has been pushed out to the 2021-2022 school year. The Anser board voted to update the 5-year expansion plan for Anser, which will now include adding one 2nd-3rd grade class and one 4th-5th grade class in the 2020-2021 school year. We will be sending out a hiring update soon to introduce you to the great instructors that will be joining our Crew next year!

We are excited to say that we are still planning to add bus routes next school year. Getting this process started has been delayed due to Covid-19's impact on Transportation planning at the state level. As soon as we have negotiated a bus contract we will let families know what parts of town will be covered.

We will also be adding a breakfast service to our food program next year. Be on the lookout for the menu when we send out registration materials in August.



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Budgetary Issues:

A 5% holdback of state education funding has been announced due to the impacts of Covid-19 on state revenue. This initial reduction is about \$160,000 for Anser. The Anser Board, made up of Anser parents, alumni parents and community members are working to meet this challenge and be prepared for future holdbacks.

The goal is to maintain our EL Education model, maintain staff positions and salaries, and be prepared for operating under a variety of Covid-19 conditions. The Anser Board voted to add one student to each Crew, in addition to the added classes of 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th, to ensure the financial stability of the school. Our Anser Crew looks toward serving students and families during a very challenging school year, and the Board is doing everything they can to support our teachers and staff while meeting this financial challenge.

CRT - Covid Response Team

We are planning on multiple school scenarios that may occur this fall due to Covid19. These plans will be developed to meet the guidelines for re-entry set by the State Board of Education. Every conceivable practice that you can imagine occurring within a school will have to be adapted. Because of the volume of changes we are facing, we require a consistent and coordinated response to ensure we will be prepared, as best we can be, to operate within this new environment next year. To support this consistent and coordinated effort we have formed a Covid Response Team. This cross-functional team includes the Co-Directors, an elementary, junior high, ECS and specials teacher, and an admin team member. We will be meeting bi-weekly to move through the many decisions to be made, processes, and procedures that need to be changed or put in place to be prepared to adapt to changing conditions next year. You can read more about different aspects of planning for next year in the [May 19th, 2020 Safety update](#).

We are working to develop a deeper, richer and more interactive online learning experience for students who cannot physically return to school or for periods when not all students can be at school at the same time.

Final Note:

There will be many new challenges for all schools to meet as we look forward to next school year. We believe Anser is positioned to meet these challenges more effectively and adaptively because of our strong community. Thank you for being a part of that community, and supporting Anser as we move through these uncertain times together.

Continuamos,

Michelle & Heather

Anser Charter School
Co-Directors