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Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 623-5843

Jay Slauter, Executive Director

Alternative Education Centers:

North Campus
ACE Charter High School
1929 North Stone Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 628-8316

South Campus
YouthWorks Charter High School
1915 East 36th Street
Tucson, AZ 85713
(520) 495-4113

July 31, 2020

TO: Parents and Families of ACE and YouthWorks Charter High School Students
RE: Notification of School Operations Prior to the First Day of Distance Learning

Dear Parents and Families,

I am aware that the Principals from ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools mailed information previously informing you that the schools would reopen on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 with remote, online learning only. You were also informed that your students would be provided Chromebooks for use in virtual attendance from home. Nothing has changed regarding this information. However, we now have additional information that we will share with you to help you and your students prepare to begin the 2020-2021 school year.

Distance Learning Plan: The Tucson Youth Development (TYD) Local Education Agency (LEA) and the schools have developed a detailed plan to provide distance learning to all students. This plan is extensive and has been posted on the websites for ACE and YouthWorks. We are in the process of developing a *user friendly* version of the Distance Learning Plan (DLP). When this version is developed, it will also be posted on the schools' websites.

Attendance and Enrollment Requirements: The LEA and the schools have developed a policy that specifies attendance requirements as well as the necessary requirements to maintain enrollment in the schools. The attendance and enrollment requirements are also described in the Distance Learning Plan posted on the schools' websites. We have also included a copy of the attendance and enrollment requirements with this letter.

Coronavirus Mitigation Plan: The LEA and the schools have developed a Center for Disease Control (CDC) informed Coronavirus mitigation plan. The purpose of the Mitigation Plan is to inform all students, parents, families, school staff and community stakeholders of the steps being taken to greatly reduce the risk of spreading the virus or contracting the virus in the LEA and/or school facilities. The Mitigation Plan will be presented to the Schools' Governing Board at an open (virtual) meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. After the Governing Board approves the Mitigation Plan it will be posted on the schools' websites. The Mitigation Plan will be posted prior to August 17, 2020. This is the date that students who choose to come to the schools during regular hours to receive free on-site learning opportunities and support services may enter the schools in-person.

TO: Parents and Families of ACE and YouthWorks Charter High School Student
RE: Notification of School Operations Prior to the First Day of Distance Learning

Free, On-Site Learning Opportunities: Arizona Executive Order 2020-41 requires any school that is offering remote, online learning must also offer free on-site learning opportunities and support services for students who need a place to go during the day. Executive Order 2020-44 stated that this free, on-site learning and support opportunity must be available beginning on August 17, 2020. A description of this free, on-site learning and support opportunity is attached to this letter and also posted on the schools' websites.

The Tucson Youth Development (TYD) Local Education Agency (LEA) and ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools administration and staff realize that these are very challenging times for students, parents, and families. We are committed to doing everything within our ability to provide the highest quality educational opportunities and the safest possible environment. We also commit to continuing to inform students and families about any changes that will be made to the information provided in the previous letters from the schools' Principals, in this letter, and/or on the schools' websites.

Please feel free to reach out to the ACE and YouthWorks Schools Principals and staff if you have any questions regarding this notification. Finally, the Executive Director and the LEA staff will make ourselves available should any student, parent, family or community stakeholder have any questions or concerns that they would like to discuss with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Slauter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jay Slauter
Executive Director
Tucson Youth Development

Free On-Site Learning and Support Services

Free On-Site Learning Opportunities

Tucson Youth Development (TYD) and its schools, ACE and Youth Works Charter High Schools will begin offering free on-site learning opportunities and support services for students who need a place to go during the day as of Monday, August 17, 2020. The schools will ensure that students and families have access to a wide range of services during the time that total remote learning is occurring and no direct in-person instruction is provided. The schools will have student support staff working on-site at ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools. Staff will provide: 1.) in-person instructional support; 2.) social emotional learning support; and 3.) college and career readiness and dropout prevention services. Counseling services may be arranged through a counseling support services provider. Free on-site learning and support opportunities will be available during the time of the regularly scheduled remote learning day: (M, T, Thu, and F; 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Wed, 9:00 a.m. - 2:18 p.m.).

During free on-site learning activities, the schools will implement specific COVID-19 mitigation protocols. These include: 1.) social distancing; 2.) wearing of cloth protective face coverings; 3.) hand washing; 4.) regular sanitization of public areas; and 5.) protocols that will be followed when students and/or staff present with potential virus symptoms. These procedures are described in the Tucson Youth Development Mitigation Protocol available on ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools' websites.

Academic Support

The schools will provide extensive academic support services. Tutors will be on campus to provide one-on-one assistance in Math and English Language Arts. Tutors will provide classroom-based instructional support to supplement the online instruction being provided virtually by Appropriately Certified Teachers. The Exceptional Educational Team will be present at the schools to provide the necessary accommodations as mandated in each student's IEP or 504 plan.

Nutritional Support

TYD and the schools have made arrangements to provide nonperishable frozen and pre-packaged food items to students who request nutritional support while present in-person at the schools. These nutritional supports will be provided at no cost to students participating in free on-site learning opportunities.

Social and Emotional Support

The Student Support Coordinator (SSC) will be present, in-person to provide social emotional learning supports to students requesting this service. The SSC will also implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) protocols to support student academic achievement in the remote, on-line classes in which they are enrolled. The Schools have developed a partnership with Casa De Los Niños for extended counseling support services.

Graduation Support

The College Career Readiness Advisor (CCRA) will be present, in-person to counsel students in issues relating to dropout prevention, post-secondary readiness, and career exploration. The objective is to provide the necessary guidance and support to seniors seeking to graduate from high school in a distance learning environment.

Attendance Tracking/Continued Enrollment

Tucson Youth Development and ACE and YouthWorks Charter High School administrators and staff realize, based on scientific research, that students are more likely to achieve academic success when they attend school regularly. It is for this reason that we are taking numerous steps to ensure students attend school, always, but especially while working remotely.

Based on our experiences during the school closures in spring 2020, we are making some adjustments to how students will work online. We want to make sure we are doing our best to regularly communicate with our students and our parents.

Attendance will be taken daily for each class period of instruction. We will be following our regular bell schedule even with students working online. Students will be marked absent if they fail to join their class via video conferencing (Google Meet) at the beginning of class.

Attendance tracking: We will make every effort to contact students that are absent each day. This can be done through various methods including phone calls, emails, and video conferencing. We want to ensure that our students are attending classes every day even while working virtually.

Updating contact information: Parents, if you move or change phone numbers, please let us know so we can update our records. Please call us during regular business hours to update your contact information. The front office at ACE Charter High School can be reached at (520) 628-8316 and the front office at YouthWorks Charter High School can be reached at (520) 495-4113. You may also contact us via email at ace@tucsonyouth.org or youthworks@tucsonyouth.org.

Continuous enrollment: In order for students to continue enrollment with us, they must attend school every day. If a student is absent for ten (10) consecutive days, we are required by Arizona statute to withdraw them from school. If a student needs to be absent, it is important that you contact us regarding the date(s) of the absence(s) and the reason(s).