



CATALINA FOOTHILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #16

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WWW.CFSD16.ORG

A 21ST CENTURY LEARNING COMMUNITY

April 19, 2018

Dear CFSD Families,

Like many of our colleagues across the state, we think that our state officials – legislators and the governor – need to find a viable way to increase education funding for Arizona’s public schools. The call to action that is underway has raised the community’s awareness of the challenges we face with chronic underfunding of our public-school system.

You may be aware that some of our teachers and staff have participated in peaceful walk-ins to schools each Wednesday morning to bring attention to this issue. They have done so independently and on their own time. We respect their unity efforts and appreciate that they have not disrupted the instructional day.

We want you to be aware that there is the potential for teacher walk-outs across Arizona. No decision or date has been set by the organizers, but as a district we are working to determine how we will respond if there is a walk-out here.

We do not support a work stoppage. It is unlikely that our dedicated professionals will abandon their students and the important teaching and learning that occurs in our schools each day. In the event of such an action, however, we may be forced to close our schools. We will not operate our schools if we have too few staff. Out of an abundance of caution, this FAQ is intended to help you prepare for that possibility.

1. How will I find out if my student’s school is closed?

Please only rely on our district communications. We will use our SchoolMessenger emergency notification system, our district and school websites, and our social media accounts. Please be sure that your emergency contact information is up-to-date. Go to the district website at cfstd16.org and under “Parents” click on “SchoolMessenger Info.”

2. How much notice will I have if there is a school closure?

We don’t really know, but as soon as we learn information, we will share it with you. We will do our best to be timely in our communication that gives you enough advance notice to make other arrangements for the care of your student.

3. Will Community Schools’ services still be available if a school is closed?

CARE as well as other Community Schools-sponsored activities will not be available if the school is closed.

4. What about athletic practices or games?

Middle school and lower level high school athletics will be canceled if the schools are closed. Varsity athletic competition will continue as long as coaches are available for the sport.

5. If a school is closed, will the school year be extended?

Yes, we will probably have to make up any days by adding them to the end of the current school year's calendar.

6. Will high school graduation be affected?

High school graduation will still occur on May 23. However, it's possible that all students will be required to come back to school after graduation to complete the school year. This is totally dependent upon the length of a work stoppage.

7. What about 5th and 8th grade promotions?

If we have to make up school days due to a work stoppage, we will probably move promotion dates to the end of the school year.

8. If a school is closed for more than one day, how often will I receive communication?

You can expect daily communication during a school closure.

We are very fortunate to have a community that consistently supports our schools. We appreciate our dedicated employees who continue to focus on meeting the needs of our students. And we appreciate your support while we address any situation that changes how and when we operate our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kamerzell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Mary Kamerzell
Superintendent