

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Apache Unified School District First In State To Open School Year**

**APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZ** (July 8, 2020) – At a special meeting on Tuesday, July 7, the Apache Junction Unified School District Governing Board approved a plan to educate district students with virtual learning starting July 21, 2020. By opening July 21, AJUSD will be the first school district in the state to begin teaching students under Governor Ducey’s Executive Order to delay in-person classes until at least August 17, 2020.

“Since last spring, a task force of district administration and educators have worked tirelessly to develop action plans to meet the educational requirements for our students,” said AJUSD Superintendent Dr. Krista Anderson. “Our number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. With our distant learning curriculum, we are being safe while providing a rigorous education.”

The online classroom instruction is for all AJUSD students, including preschool, kindergarten, elementary-age students, and grades 7 through 12, as well as special education. The school day will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To support the students who are learning from home, and to provide an equitable educational experience, the district is providing all students with laptop devices. Ipads for kindergarten to 2nd grade, and Chromebooks for students in grades 3 through 12.

“Internet connectivity is often an issue when more than one person is online,” said Dr. Anderson. “To ensure our students have the best educational experience possible we are providing Internet Hotspots for families who do not currently have service, or who have limited bandwidth.”

Like attending school in person, attendance will be taken daily. Grades will be given based on the work the students complete and the quality of their work. Students who do not attend class

will be marked absent and will impact the student's overall grade point average. Students who do not complete the assigned work will not be given passing grades.

"Our teachers are highly qualified and will provide a solid educational experience for the children of this community," Dr. Anderson added. "We are absolutely missing the smiling faces of our students at their schools and in their classrooms. We'll just have to see their smiling faces virtually."

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### **About AJUSD**

The Apache Junction Unified School District serves over 3,200 students in a 217-square mile area that includes the City of Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, Peralta Trail, Queen Valley and the unincorporated areas of the Superstition Mountain foothills. There are five schools in the district including a high school, junior high and a special education facility. Learn more about the Apache Junction Unified School District at [www.ajusd.org](http://www.ajusd.org).

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AJUSD empowers students by providing them with the knowledge, skills and ingenuity to pursue their dreams and make a positive difference in the world.