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**SEVEN ARROWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ISSUES COVID-19 PLANS AND GUIDELINES
FOR FALL FIVE-DAY-A-WEEK RETURN TO SCHOOL**

One of the very few schools in the area that has planned for a five-day school week, the Pacific Palisades-based school's comprehensive plan focuses on safety and health of students

(LOS ANGELES) July 11, 2020 — Seven Arrows Elementary School – a Kindergarten through 6th grade Los Angeles-based elementary school that focuses on education that fuses rigorous academics with world culture and the arts – released this week their COVID-19 plans to safely reopen the school for students this Fall. The plan is rooted in the latest science and safety measures and guided by recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), L.A County Department of Public Health, John Hopkins Medicine, Office of Governor Newsom, Office of Mayor Garcetti and from a consortium of fellow independent schools.

The specifics of the released reopening plan details new teaching models, additional spaces for learning, how children will interact, heightened safety measures inside the classroom, and the health and wellness practices for students and faculty.

Key specifics of this plan include:

- Adopting a hybrid model that gives parents the option to choose to either have their child attend school in person full time or engage in full-time distance learning. School start times will entail staggered start and stop times per grade/cohort. The distance learning model will be conducted entirely remotely, but in synchronicity (live) with the in-class students through Zoom, Meeting Owls, and digital collaboration programs.
- Adding classroom space that will allow for proper physical distancing in order to accommodate for students interested in being in-person full time.
- Limiting in-person learning to a restricted cohort group of 10-12 max students per classroom. This cohort model will allow the school to sequester/close down one grade if infection occurs, instead of the whole school. Adult interaction with cohorts will be limited to the teacher and associate only.
- Making maximum use of its outdoor spaces designated for safe play, rest and for younger students, a (safe) chance to go mask-free.
- Requiring of all students and faculty to wear a mask while indoors, maintaining proper social distance of six feet apart, remaining at designated individual desks, limiting the sharing of supplies, decreasing transitioning between rooms, increasing teaching outdoors, prohibiting food sharing, restricting singing and wind instruments, suspending all field trips and moving all conferences/meetings to a virtual environment.

In addition to best health practices, classroom and building updates include:

- Installing new additional handwashing stations and temperature check points
- Installing plexiglass installations around the school
- Marking floors to guide students while they transition through the building
- Keeping doors and windows open to increase airflow
- Changing of air filters from MERV 8 to MERV 13 to prevent spread via ducting
- Providing a private egress to the outdoors in every grade
- Removing porous surfaces that cannot be easily disinfected
- Installing lids on toilets and UV lights in the bathrooms
- Adding “contactless” sinks and soap dispensers
- Hiring additional cleaning staff to sanitize the school
- Adding cleaning devices such as electrostatic sprayers and disinfectant foggers
- Providing wipes, gloves, cleaners and hand sanitizer dispensers in each room

“We are proud that our school continues to be a leader in innovation by crafting a five days a week in-person instruction model,” said the school’s Board Chair Stephen Henning. “We continue to innovate and refine all aspects of distance learning to ensure we deliver a cutting-edge curriculum which inspires, and at the same time, be prepared to pivot to that model if the pandemic requires we go that direction.”

“This is certainly uncharted territory for all of us, but we do have plans that have integrated the best research and we believe that children need to be in school,” said Head of School **Margarita Pagliai**. “The long term mental and emotional risk in our developing children is too high not to consider reopening in the safest way we can.”

The school plans to reopen on Thursday, September 3. Leading up to that date, it will be providing videos to parents and students that demonstrate safety protocols, drop-off routines and maps. In August, the school will also host (virtual) grade-level town halls, enabling parents to connect with the administration, see simulations of its cohort classroom plans and ask questions. The development of a dedicated page on its website will house resources for parents about their model, latest research, tools for helping kids wear masks, and serving as a library of the school’s recent communication.

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ABOUT SEVEN ARROWS ELEMENTARY:

Seven Arrows Elementary was founded to educate future leaders, one at a time, by striving to nurture individual strengths in a supportive and rigorous educational environment. Its core mission is to teach and promote a passion for discovery, academic excellence, and a commitment to local and global communities. Seven Arrows and its staff support and encourage the development of competent, disciplined, critical, creative, respectful, and ethical human beings in an environment that celebrates each child’s innate abilities and challenges her or his personal potential.

Founded in 1999 by Margarita Pagliai, Seven Arrows has 140 students with a 1:10 teacher/student ratio. Coined the smallest big school on the Westside, all of its students matriculate to the most competitive middle schools in West LA and beyond.