

# **HYBRID EDUCATION PROGRAM OF THE**

## **AMERICAN SCHOOL OF DURANGO**



# BACKGROUND

In March 2020, the ASD community was the first educational institution in Durango to start a **DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM**. United as always, we have determined that it is time to implement a **HYBRID EDUCATION PROGRAM**.

Guided by scientific evidence and public health experts, **ASD** responded to the global COVID-19 pandemic, making substantial adjustments in almost every dimension of its academic life.

These efforts, from the smallest to the monumental, have ensured the safety of our community and provided unique opportunities for students, staff, and parents to collaborate and grow positively in the face of adversity. We continue to be amazed by the extraordinary dedication and creativity of the **ASD** community.

Although the pandemic continues to pose a risk to public health and safety, we have seen encouraging trends in the decline in the positivity rate. Our planning also assumes that Mexico will continue to have widespread access to effective COVID-19 vaccines.

We are sure that distance education can never compete with face-to-face education, especially in the first grades, where interaction and socialization are pedagogically necessary. In the opinion of many international school leaders, human contact is paramount for most learning purposes.

While increased use of technology in education may be inevitable, technology will never replace a great teacher. In fact, a single teacher can change the trajectory of a student. However, the approach to teaching and communication will draw on many of the lessons we have learned during the pandemic.

That is why the ASD is pleased to present this educational project that seeks to unify the best of both models in our new **HYBRID EDUCATION PROGRAM**.

## GUARANTEE

As long as the pandemic has not been controlled, the adoption of the **HYBRID EDUCATION PROGRAM** will be totally **OPTIONAL**, for all the students of the School, except during the evaluation periods.

It will be the responsibility of parents or guardians to decide whether to integrate the students to the present hybrid program or to continue in the distance model.

**ASD** will guarantee education for **all** its students regardless of the decision of their parents or guardians.

## ACADEMIC UPDATE

**ASD** is committed to building on the advances we have made using online technologies and continuing to provide a world-class education.

The **ASD** online learning model has been very successful with strong academic results for our students in all grades. Our internal assessments and **MAP** (external) results have shown that our students continue to achieve high levels in all subjects.

We feel very confident in saying that our students are prepared to move on to the next stage of their academic lives, including those who have advanced to college.

## OUR PRESENT

**ASD**, continues to prioritize the health and safety of our community members and will only convene face-to-face teaching and learning activities in an orderly and safe manner.

We focus on promoting our academic mission and holistically supporting our students as they learn to become innovative thinkers, global citizens, and collaborative problem solvers.

Of course, returning to the Campus will require very strict protocols (which are already established within the school), so that we can guarantee the health and safety of our entire community. We consider **ASD** to be a flagship in the State of Durango and in Mexico. We take the responsibility of this leadership very seriously.

## OUR FUTURE

Our plan is to return to our Campus hybrid learning model in August 2021. This will depend on the restrictions of the competent State and / or Federal authorities and the condition of the epidemiological light for Durango.

We recognize that health problems, travel restrictions and other circumstances may continue to affect access to the Campus for many members of our community, so we will continue to have a distance learning option for those students who have health or other situations.

The need for the ASD and all members of our community to remain flexible is important as decision making will continue to be guided by data from the evolution of the pandemic and guidance from experts in health and science.

## PROGRAM

All parts for a-return-to-school plan, have been carefully elaborated to take into account each contingency. It is vitally important that we have the cooperation of the ASD community to ensure our safety.

We are fully aware that no program can be comprehensive enough to accommodate the individual needs of each student, parent, or teacher. However, our plans have been developed thinking that all the interests of the parties involved are considered equally and everyone feels safe and confident in our return to face-to-face learning.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Give priority to the health, safety, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.
- Act with fidelity to the mission, vision and core values of ASD.
- Ensure hygiene and health related policies are based on research, clearly communicated, effectively implemented and diligently enforced.
- Promote practices and policies to reduce the risk of virus transmission and support our ability to be responsive and agile in case of change.
- In accordance with health guidelines, immediately return to online learning in case we have an increase in cases of COVID-19 in our community. It is the responsibility of parents to monitor their children and their family members every day for symptoms of infectious diseases and to notify the school immediately.
- We believe that students build knowledge through experience and social interaction and that the essential purpose of the school is to provide "supportive environments rich in participation, social interaction and feedback." Relationships play an essential role in each student's school experience and will be prioritized upon our return.
- We will continue to focus on academic growth, but there will be a strong emphasis on the socio-emotional growth of each student. This is also important to reduce any fears or anxieties our community may have upon returning to Campus.



# SECURITY PROTOCOLS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES



## Face mask

Universal and correct use of a face mask is required. Students must have a well-fitting face mask on to enter campus and must keep it on throughout the day. The school's health safety team will provide orientation and training to students on the proper use of face masks. Note: The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, agency of the federal department of health in the United States) now recommends wearing two masks when they are made of cloth.



## Face shield

Students may wear a properly fitting face shield while on campus. For young children, "bucket" hats that have a built-in mask are recommended. The school uniform store has them available. The use of face shields does not exempt the use of a face mask.



## Physical Distance

There must be a physical distance of at least 1 meter between people in all activities. A limited number of students will be allowed in each classroom, and during outdoor activities, physical distance rules also apply.



## Hand washing

Frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette should be followed. The classrooms will have antibacterial hand gel. Students should also bring their own hand gel to keep their desks and supplies clean.



## Protection of Belongings

Students will enter class and bring all necessary supplies to their desk. It is important that students only bring with them the essential material to be in class. Lockers will not be used and backpacks are not to be placed outside.

Students will not be able to share materials with other students or with their teachers to avoid contact.



## Food and Water

Students must bring a bottle of water and stay hydrated throughout the day. The cafeteria will NOT be open. Students may not eat or drink in the classroom and must leave the building to do so. Students can bring a snack and we will set up a time for students to eat where they can physically distance themselves



## Cleaning and Maintenance of Healthy Facilities

The classrooms will be kept properly ventilated. Windows and doors will remain open throughout the day. The bathroom doors will also remain open to provide maximum ventilation. A closed bathroom door means someone is in the bathroom and the next person must wait outside. The maintenance staff will visit the restrooms frequently to ensure they are clean and will thoroughly clean any classrooms that have had students at the end of the school day.

If weather conditions do not allow us to keep rooms well ventilated, students will stay home and continue online learning that day.



## Entrance and Exit of the Campus (Pedestrian).

Upon entering, each student must have a temperature control and apply antibacterial gel to their hands. Students will take longer than usual to enter the campus, therefore, we require your patience and understanding at the Access Control Points, both at entry and exit.



## Entrance and Exit of the Campus (Vehicular).

Parents are asked to remain in the vehicles.

There will be different routes for vehicular access to guarantee convenient and quick access to the corresponding Control Point. We ask to respect the following logistics.



## Access Control Points

We have organized the entrance to the Campus in **3 Access Control Points** :

### POINT-1 - KINDERGARTEN

Exclusively for **Kindergarten** students, who will use the access door located in the cafeteria area.





# Access Control Points

## POINT-2 - ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Elementary, Middle and High School students, who will use the main door.



The entry and exit times will be different for each area. In this way, we can improve vehicle circulation.

It is important to consider that teachers and / or guards cannot help students upon arrival or departure, with their backpacks or other belongings to avoid contact.

# LOCATION MAP OF THE ACCESS CONTROL POINTS ON THE CAMPUS

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# PARENT AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

Monitor your child every day for symptoms of infectious diseases. Students who are ill should not attend school. Common symptoms include fever or chills (temperature over 38 ° C), cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, among others. Many symptoms of Covid-19 are also present in common illnesses; however, for safety reasons, do not send your child to school if they experience any of these symptoms. We suggest you seek medical attention immediately for any of the aforementioned symptoms and promptly follow their recommendations.

On the first day of face-to-face classes, parents will send the “Responsive Letter”, confirming that their children have no symptoms, that they have not been in contact with any infected person and that they have not gone on a trip that weekend. This document is required by the SEP and it will be essential that all teachers receive it before the first class. If any of these conditions change during the week, parents need to notify the school immediately.

## POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST CASE



If a student, or a person on campus, or a member of their family or contact circle, receives a positive Covid-19 test result, they must self-quarantine at home for 7 days. Parents are required to report the results of a positive test in order to track the route of infection and determine if someone may have been in close contact with that person. Asymptomatic people who have had close contact with someone who is positive for Covid-19 will also need to be quarantined for 7 days. In a positive case, the school will not release the name of the person who tested positive, but will notify everyone that person has been in contact with.

The notice will be like this: “We have information that you have been in contact with someone who has reported a positive Covid-19 test. For this reason, we require that you self-quarantine for 7 days from \_\_\_\_\_ (the time of contact). If you experience symptoms, contact your doctor immediately ”.

# IN CASE OF EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS

When someone on Campus experiences symptoms of Covid-19, contact with others will be avoided and they will be removed from Campus as quickly as possible. In the case of students, parents will be contacted and expected to come to the school immediately to pick up their child.

## POSITIVE CASE IN A CLASS:

When a positive case is presented in the classroom, the parents of the group will be notified and the student will comply with the protocol described above. The group will be under observation, both the students who remain at home and those who decide to continue attending school, in order to detect any possible new cases derived from the first one (outbreak).

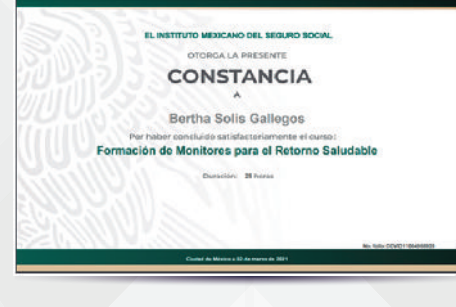
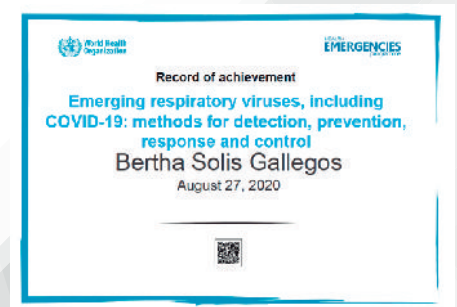
If there are two cases in the same group that are related, the group of students will be sent home for 7 days, being able to return on the 5th day if they have no symptoms and with a negative COVID-19 antigen or PCR test.

# TRAINING OF ASD STAFF

As part of the security protocols for the safe return of staff and students, all ASD staff will be trained through CLIMSS and the SSA. In addition to this, the staff will meet periodically with the ASD contagion prevention and protection committee, which has been constantly trained, to thoroughly review the ASD safety protocol, answer questions, and be prepared. in case of any contingency derived from the return to the Campus.



# TRAINING OF ASD STAFF






# HYBRID PLAN AUGUST 2021

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As of December 2021, all ASD students have the opportunity to attend 100% face-to-face classes, with the option of hybrid learning, unless a contrary indication is published by the health authorities and/or Government of the State of Durango. .

The schedules by area are as follows:

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- **Kindergarten: 9 am-1 pm**
  - **Elementary: 8:30-2 pm**
  - **Secondary and High School: 8 am-2:10 pm**

Class schedules do not include the time it will take to enter and leave campus. The times are "class time". Students will be on a "Bubble Plan" where they will stay in the same classroom all day and go outside to rest or have a snack. Students who, for security reasons, decide to stay at home will be connected through virtual learning, taking advantage of the technological infrastructure that our Campus has.

# CONCLUSIÓN

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The ASD declares itself ready to start with this program and reiterates that it will act with all responsibility, in conjunction with the competent authorities, to define the moment in which it is necessary to adapt the plan.

It will not be an easy task, as it has not been since this pandemic began, but we firmly believe that once again we will all move forward together and endorse the leadership that for more than 66 years has been a constant in the life of our beloved School.

ASD is a remarkable community and we cannot help but express our deep and sincere gratitude for the combined efforts of the staff, faculty, and students during this time, as well as the support of families, alumni, and friends. We appreciate the fellowship and cooperation of the entire community at this critical time and look forward to a future where we can safely meet again.