



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School Inc.

“Quality Education Begins Here”



March 15th, 2020

Dear BWCS/Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter Parents, Guardians, and Employees...

This has been a trying time for our Community, families and employees. The information and guidance regarding the COVID-19 virus has been changing daily, leaving families, students and employees to worry about how to protect their loved ones while still carrying on daily routines. Fortunately, we have Spring Break this week and the next week, but it will not be enough time for the virus to subside. After careful consideration, in consultation with the BWCS/Akimel O'Otham Charter School Governing Board, we have made the decision to close our school in order to help contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

The school administration has been communicating very closely with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) office, Tribal Health Care as well as Office of Emergency Management of Gila River Indian Community and to stay informed on the COVID-9 related updates. The evidence is mounting that social distancing is the most successful containment strategy.

I want to assure all families and staff that every decision, from preventative measures like deep cleaning of our campus, to this decision to close our school, has been made only after thoughtful consideration of the facts and the potential impact on our community. Ensuring student and staff safety is always at the center of every decision we make at BWCS, and this decision has been made with the wellbeing of our students, staff and community in mind.

Blackwater Community School/Akimel Charter School will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. Students WILL NOT return to school after SPRING BREAK until further notice. All 260-day Contract employees should plan on reporting to work on Monday, March 16, 2020 for further direction from their supervisors regarding work schedules, working from home, etc. School Board of Trustees will be meeting soon to decide the compensations during the extended period of Spring Break. Please check your emails and school's website frequently to stay informed.

Sincerely,

Jack Sharma (Principal)

Cc: HR Office, SBT

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