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The Importance of Building Strong Relationships is the Focus of San Tan Charter School's Annual Back to School Speakers Event

Teachers Gathered in a Safe and Socially-Distanced Way in the School's Large Gymnasium to Hear a Number of Inspirational Speakers Who Focused on the Essentialities of Relationship Building

GILBERT, Arizona—Ever since San Tan Charter School first opened 14 years ago, providing teachers and staff with a Back to School Speakers event has been a key part of launching the new school year.

Recently, teachers and staff gathered in the large gym at San Tan Charter School in Gilbert for the annual Back to School Speakers event. To keep everyone as safe as possible, social distancing precautions were in full effect, everyone present wore a mask and there was only one day of in-person teacher training and professional development instead of the usual three; all other meetings and trainings were conducted via Google Meet, pre-recorded trainings and/or other virtual meetings.

As Kate Sippel, CEO and Superintendent of Schools noted, relationship building was the theme of this year's event, with the speakers focusing on socio-emotional connection and considerations.

"Since our inception as a school community, we have wanted to be known as a school that inspires, encourages and supports people in being and doing their best," Sippel said, adding that during his speech, he presented a COVID-19 timeline and what teachers and staff could expect this year and next.



"I also asked for continued grace and flexibility that is needed for these challenging times."