



COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

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November 4, 2020

Dear Families and Supporters of the Coquille School District,

Over the weekend I sent out an email explaining that Governor Brown updated the school pandemic metrics allowing us to have students in grades 4, 5, and 6 return to school. I also indicated that due to the state requirement of 35-square-feet-per-individual it would be difficult for us to bring all those students back on campus at the same time.

We have been working hard to develop a plan that allows for more students to return to school while still supporting our students who have already been in school since September. It has not been an easy task, but I think we have done well to meet the needs of the majority of our families. I hope you understand that there is simply no way for us to meet the needs of every family with the limitations the state has set before us. I am not complaining; I understand that the Governor's goal all along has been to keep students and their families safe. That safety comes with some constraints that make scheduling a challenge.

The Coquille School District will have students in grades 4-6 return to in-person instruction. Starting *next week* both Coquille Valley Elementary and Winter Lakes Elementary will have orientation days; starting November 16, we will start with classes.

Please note that this letter is only a broad overview of our plan; each school will give their families more details.

Winter Lakes Elementary:

Most students at Winter Lakes Elementary use the distance learning platform. The school will be contacting families to see which students would like to return to in person learning.

"With our community partners, providing an educational environment that promotes and builds individual success for all children."

Lincoln Pre-K:

I am pleased to announce that there will be no changes to our pre-K at this time. Students will continue to be here five days a week.

Lincoln/CVE grades K-3:

The only major scheduling change here is that Fridays will now be a half-day of instruction instead of a full-day of instruction. The Friday session will only be in the morning. Both schools will let their families know what time students will be dismissed on Fridays.

CVE grades 4-6:

We will have half-day sessions for each grade Mondays through Thursdays. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. We will run only one group each Friday. CVE will send out a schedule of which groups will meet on which Fridays.

What if I want my children to continue distance learning?:

In the next few days, we will be contacting the families of our students in grades 4-6 and ask if they want to stay with the distance learning model. It is absolutely okay to choose to stay with distance learning.

Will the Fairview Church still have a cohort?

The last day for the elementary cohort at Fairview Church will be Thursday, November 12. We will still operate our Fairview cohorts for junior high and high school students.

Grades 7-12:

At this point the state of Oregon is not allowing us to have students in grades 7-12 return to school beyond what we are currently doing which is the Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI). As soon as Coos County's metrics improve and the state will allow us to start adding more grade levels to regular school, we will quickly do so.

Limited In-Person Instruction:

Even though the metrics do not currently allow us to bring our junior high and high school students back to regular school immediately, we are allowed to increase our Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) cohorts from 10 to 20. This will allow more students to get back on campus in small blocks of time. I know plans are already being made to include more students in LIPI next week.

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Face Masks:

We also have new guidance on face masks. At this point face shields are **not allowable** for students or staff except for very specific exceptions – like the speech language pathologist having students use them, so she can watch students enunciate their words.

Also, students must now wear their masks **at all times** whether they are inside or outside (they may have short individual breaks from time-to-time with staff permission).

Previously we were allowed to have a group mask break during the day; that practice was discontinued by this new guidance.

I know this plan is not perfect, and it will present families with new challenges. I am excited that it gets more of our students back on campuses. I am sure you will have a lot of questions about how all of this will work. If your child is in grades K-6 you will receive more information in a very short time from your building principals.

Respectfully,

Tim Sweeney