



COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

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October 30, 2020

Dear Coquille Families and Supporters,

Earlier this morning Governor Brown issued new metrics that allow the Coquille School District to expand the number of students we serve at school--particularly students in grades four, five and six. I will be meeting over the weekend and into next week with my school principals, transportation department, and food service to map out how CSD will implement the governor's new orders. Once our plans are in place, we will notify CSD families what is happening. Please give us until the evening of Wednesday, November 4, to get that information to you.

Although we are excited about these new metrics, there are some challenges still before us. The biggest challenge we face is fitting all of our students onto our campuses while still maintaining the 35-square-foot-per-student requirement. There is simply not enough space or staff to allow us to manage that requirement with all of our students at school at the same time. We will have to be creative in designing our schedules, and all grades and schools will have at least some changes.

Also, with more students attending school, we will have more stringent protocols for safety. Some of those safety measures will include more cleaning done by the district; to that end we have hired more custodial staff. We will maintain strict expectations on face masks (which has changed under the new metric) for all people at our schools, offices, and vehicles.

There is a lot for us to put together in a short time. I have told our elementary principals that I want our fourth, fifth, and sixth graders back on campus in some capacity around the Veteran's Day holiday.

Finally, I think it is important to note: This is a step closer to getting back to "normal" school, but we are still a long way from normal. Case counts continue to rise in Coos County, and we all need to work together to make sure once we open we are able to stay open. It will also be necessary for many students to continue to access their education through online learning. The finish line is still out in the distance.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Thank you for the grace you continue to extend to our district. Thank you for helping us get through these turbulent times together.

Respectfully,

Tim Sweeney
Superintendent
Coquille School District