



COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

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February 5, 2021

Good morning families and supporters of the Coquille School District,

For some of you this email will bring good news and for some it will be frustrating news.

The Coquille School District will be participating in sports this spring for students in grades 7-12. This will have a significant impact on the district's ability to transport students. Last week I conferred with Keryn Ogle, our district transportation director, about the return of high school athletics this spring. Currently, our buses, vans, and cars are traveling throughout the day; our first drivers begin their pre-trips before 6:30 in the morning with the last drivers back in the bus barn after 5:00 pm. We are pushing our drivers to the limit each day, but they are making it work. However, we have very little wiggle room for changes.

The return of athletics will definitely impact our bus fleet: At this time there is no way for us to pull multiple buses out of the fleet on regular school days to transport our student-athletes to away contests. What may have once taken us only one bus to transport our teams now might take up to four buses because of the social distancing rules.

After careful consideration and discussing this with the school board and the school principals, I have decided that as of Friday, March 5 we will end in-person learning on Fridays for Lincoln, CVE, and CJSHS. This decision will allow our Lincoln, CVE, and CJSHS students to work with their teachers only remotely, but it will also allow me to free up drivers to transport our student-athletes to away contests.

We are not switching to a four-day teaching week at Lincoln, CVE, and CJSHS; CDL Fridays will be academically important, and I anticipate a high level of engagement from staff and students. WLE and WLHS will continue their four-day weeks as they are.

Please know that this decision was not made lightly by anyone in the district; giving up an in-person school day is never an easy choice to make. I know for some of you this news will be very frustrating. You will ask yourself why athletics carry so much weight that it will take students away from their physical classroom one day a week. I wish I had a wonderful answer that would make perfect sense. Unfortunately, I do not. The board struggled with this question both at the board meeting and afterwards. In the end, it is one of those things where our neighboring school districts are participating in sports, so we will not withhold our students from participating. This was the best solution I could find that would work for the most people.

Attached is the revised calendar. Please look it over closely. Besides the Friday change, you will also note that we will be returning students to school the weeks of March 29 and May 10. This portion of the calendar change applies to all of our Coquille School District Schools--Lincoln, CVE, CJSHS, WLE, and WLHS. We are excited to be in a position to add those days back to our student's school year.

Thank you for your flexibility during this incredibly challenging school year. We're glad you're part of the Coquille School District.

Respectfully,

Tim Sweeney
Superintendent
Coquille School District

