



Sisters School District

“Home of the Outlaws”

Curtiss Scholl
Superintendent

April 2, 2020

Dear Sisters Schools Community,

I hope this message finds you and your family well. Please continue to do your part to honor the social distancing and the Stay Home, Save Lives order from Governor Brown. It will make a difference in our timeline to return to normalcy. I also wanted to share an update to our plans to support students as we return from spring break and we get ready to re-engage with our families.

On Monday night, the State of Oregon, through the Oregon Department of Education, announced a seismic shift in the way our state's education system will operate into the future. To understand the context in which we're operating, I want to remind you of all the changes that have occurred over the last three weeks:

- On March 12, Oregon announced that most students would lose seven school days, 5 days for Sisters students.
- On March 17, Oregon extended the closure to more than a month of school days and districts would provide supplemental materials for students.
- On March 30, Oregon's leadership stated that there is a very real potential that our students, like those in many other states, may not return to school this academic year. School districts are now working to provide distance learning for all of Oregon K-12 students.

As we plan and prepare to provide the very best learning environment and options for our students during this unprecedented time, we wanted to share our latest thinking. On April 6th, our staff will return to work (some physically and some will work remotely).

We intend to immediately start reaching out to our students and families to get a better understanding of what resources they need to help us achieve the Distance Learning for All directive from the state. In this first week back, as we gather this information, staff will provide supplemental and review materials to re-engage our students. It is our goal to get supplemental material out as quickly as possible and estimate that we should start disseminating materials by Wednesday, the 8th. By Friday, April 10th, it is our goal to get technology and other learning materials into the hands of those that need it as we transition to distance learning on the 13th.

This distance learning is not just about online education and may, in fact, include a blend of other modes, such as phone calls, recorded video lessons, Canvas, Google meet and paper packets.

[Oregon's Distance Learning for All](#) effort, while it will present challenges, allows us flexibility from the state to continue teaching and learning during this closure. It also draws on our core value to know every student by name, strength and need – no matter the challenge at hand. It positions our teachers to do what they do best: connect with every student; provide feedback, and report on their progress.

I realize there are still more questions than answers, but wanted you to have this information and an initial starting point today. We will need the deep support, patience, and resilience of every member of the Sisters School District, our families, and our students, as we shift to a model that attempts to educate students remotely.

Again, I remind you to take the time to take care of yourselves and those that you love. We have an incredibly strong community and together we will continue to navigate the challenges that this crisis presents.

Access to accurate, timely information about COVID-19 is critical for all of us. Our [County Public Health](#) experts point to the [Oregon Health Authority](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as good sources of information. www.coemergencyinfo.blogspot.com provides a collective resource for up-to-date information. Oregon Department of Education has an FAQ page at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID-19-FAQ.aspx>

Stay Safe,

Curt Scholl
Superintendent
Sisters School District