



Sisters Elementary School

“Home of the Outlaws”

Joan Warburg
Principal

April 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from Spring Break! I know it has been an incredibly different reality this year as we have navigated Governor Brown’s stay home, save lives order. I hope that even though it wasn’t what you anticipated or expected, you were able to spend some quality time with your children, enjoying being a family. As we navigate this new reality, I want to encourage you to make your home a haven of positivity and joy as you experience new things together as a family. We can create delightful memories for our children as they remember the fun that they had at home rather than the fear that is gripping many of the adults in our country. Our biggest win from this time will be when our children reference these days in a positive, nostalgic way, so I encourage you to look at this brief time in light of the entirety of their lives.

We understand the difficulties that this poses for your families as you navigate childcare issues and figure out ways to support your child’s learning in a different way than you have ever experienced before. I hope you take a moment to tell yourself that you are doing a great job! We need to give ourselves permission to make mistakes as we figure this out. Our staff is also encountering these same challenges as they learn how to navigate a different way of instruction and balance their own family needs. Our team is incredibly gifted and I am very confident that we are going to create a unique and amazing Outlaw platform for learning. Our mantra for this time is to keep it simple, give ourselves and one another grace, go slow, be flexible and be ready to make a lot of mistakes and grow a few neurons in the process! Together as the SES community, we are going to create a wonderful learning space for all of us to grow.

As our superintendent, Curtiss Scholl, communicated last week, on March 30, a seismic shift in how our schools will be operating during the remainder of the school closure, was communicated from the Oregon Department of Education. Our staff has returned to work today to begin the work of supporting this shift from supplementary to Distance Learning for All.

This week we continue with supplementary work and will then fully engage in Distance Learning beginning on Monday, April 13. This supplementary work was communicated, and sent home on March 13. You will find that information attached to this letter. At the elementary school, we are not going to be sending home specific homework for students for this week. However, there are a multitude of activities that you can do with your children during the week at home that can support authentic learning and maintenance of academic skills. I have attached several documents with suggestions and tools on how you can continue your child’s learning this week.

Our priority for this week will be reconnecting with our students and families and engaging in professional development as we transition to a new format of instruction. We miss our kids and we also know that you have many questions. So, we’ve decided to call all our families on Monday and Tuesday. If you do not

receive a call by the end of the day on Tuesday, please email your child's teacher or call and leave us a message on our main line 541.549.8981. We will be regularly checking the messages, albeit remotely.

The primary reason for the phone call is to connect with our families. We'll be working with you to figure out what your needs are for your student in the coming weeks. We will also be ready to answer some of your questions. We will do our best to answer questions, but the reality is that we still have many questions ourselves.

Many of our staff will be calling you from their personal phones, so if you see a message on your phone that says "No Caller ID," "Restricted Number" or "Unknown Caller" it's probably us, please answer it. If you miss a call, please email your teacher directly or call the school number and leave a message. Shannon will notify the teacher when she checks the voicemail.

On Friday, families will be able to come and pick up necessary materials and technology to support your student's learning. More information on what the pick-up structure will look like will be sent later this week. All schools will have alphabetical pick-up at the designated times: A-G 8-9:30am, H-M 9:30-11am, N-S 11am-12:30pm, and T-Z 1-2:30pm.

Typically, in April our SPTC in collaboration with local restaurants, offers Feed the Outlaws on several nights as a way to support our local restaurants on slow nights. Although we have had to cancel it this year, I would like to offer a suggestion. Perhaps, your family would consider a new tradition during the closure of getting take out from a local restaurant on Tuesday nights to honor the spirit of Feed the Outlaws. It would be great to see pictures of you and your kids supporting our local businesses, especially during this difficult time.

We appreciate your patience and support during these times as things continue to evolve. We will be continuing to update you via email throughout the school closure as new information becomes available so please check your email regularly.

If you have questions, please use email to communicate with your child's teacher and with me; we will be checking our emails and responding.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this situation and support one another in our community. Now, more than ever, we need one another! Go Outlaws!

Sincerely,
Joan Warburg
SES Principal

[SES School Closure Home Learning \(2\).pdf](#)
[Fun Games for Vacation \(1\).pdf](#)
[Clever Instructions \(1\).pdf](#)