



Sisters School District

“Home of the Outlaws”

Curtiss Scholl
Superintendent

July 2, 2020

Dear Sisters Schools Community,

I hope you are all enjoying a safe and relaxing summer. My kids don't like it when I talk about “next year” at the start of the summer, but making plans for next year is a top priority for the district. Each school will submit our “Ready Schools, Safe Learners” Operational Blueprint for Reentry to Oregon's Department of Education (ODE) on August 15th.

There are many inputs to our blueprint: input from families, teachers, administrators, unions, medical professionals, Oregon's Health Authority, ODE, and more. Our blueprint will be flexible as the conditions we face may differ wildly throughout the course of the year. Most importantly, our blueprint will prioritize both the safety of our school community, both physical and social / emotional, and the educational needs of our students. I welcome you to engage in the planning process via any of the opportunities listed below, and you're always welcome to email me your ideas as well.

- June 30: ODE guidance revision #1 (no significant changes at this time)
- July 8: School Board Meeting @ 6:00 pm @ SMS
- July 8 to 20: Send out survey to families
- July 21: ODE guidance revision #2
- July 29: Superintendent Coffee meeting
- August 1 to 11: Continue revising building plans (building principals)
- August 11: ODE guidance revision #3
- August 12: School Board Meeting to present plan
- August 15: Submit to ODE

The framework for this plan will be fairly simple as we focus on three basic options:

- a. On-Site Learning: We feel this is the best way to deliver against our Mission and Vision, and will work to make this the preferred option in our Blueprint. Safety precautions will be required, but we hope to offer the best “in school” experience we can. We recognize some may decide this option is too risky and opt for home learning. We want you to stay connected as an Outlaw. As such, we have a robust on-line offering for the home learner to stay “synced” with our curriculum, and will be able to participate in sports or extra-curricular activities as a full-fledged Outlaw.
- b. Distance Learning: If mandated by ODE, we will be prepared to return to Distance Learning. We learned a great deal from last year's abrupt transition to Distance Learning and we hope to apply that learning for a better educational experience for students, staff, and families. We hope this will NOT be part of the 2020-21 school year, but we will be better prepared to support Distance Learning if this becomes a requirement.

- c. A Hybrid Model: If mandated by ODE, we may find ourselves in a situation where not every student can come to school buildings daily. This could be 50% of the students one day and the other 50% the next. Alternatively, it could mean younger grades attend school in a contained cohort while older grades do more learning from home.

Please keep these things in mind as you think about next year:

1. We want you to be an Outlaw! We know how difficult planning for childcare, work coverage, internet access, etc. can be, but reach out and let us help you.
2. Nutritional services will be available in any and all school models.
3. We may transition from one plan to another in the middle of the year as the environment in which we are operating changes.
4. Unless mandated by ODE, we hope to be flexible in our approach based on the size of our district and the support of our community. One size does not fit all and we hope to find a solution for Sisters within ODE's guidance, but that is optimal for our safety and our educational needs.

Stay Safe,

Curt Scholl
Superintendent
Sisters School District

READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

Planning for the 2020-21 School Year

How will my school and district begin planning for the 2020-21 school year?

Prior to the beginning of the school year, every school, under the direction of their local district, will determine whether they teach all students on-site, teach all students through Comprehensive Distance Learning or utilize a hybrid model. Each school will develop an *Operational Blueprint for Reentry* that ensures their school meets requirements outlined in [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#). This Blueprint will be submitted to the School Board. All school districts are required to post their school blueprints on a website and submit that website link to ODE by August 15, 2020 or prior to the beginning of their 2020-21 school year.

What if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 at my school?

Outbreaks are determined by Oregon Health Authority and Local Public Health Authorities. All plans for fall On-Site and Hybrid instruction must include a school's response to an outbreak. In the event that there is a single positive case or a cluster of cases of COVID-19, schools and districts must partner with the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) who will work to support them on ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

What should I do if I'm a concerned student, parent or guardian, or staff member?

We want to hear about your experience with school and planning for the 2020-21 school year. The best way to share your input is to [complete this short survey](#). While ODE has developed guidance for the state's schools to operate safely, the responsibility of planning and assessing local needs is in the hands of our capable school and district leaders. For more information, you can find extensive details about the state's framework in the guidance titled [Ready School, Safe Learners](#).

What is a local decision and what is a state-level decision?

The planning will be complex and challenging to ensure our schools open safely. Returning Oregon students to onsite learning is an enormous responsibility, and that responsibility is shared by schools, districts, and local and state health and education agencies. The state created guidance for schools in their planning process. ODE requires districts to submit a landing webpage where their school(s) Operational Blueprints for Reentry will be posted by August 15, 2020 or prior to the beginning of their 2020-21 school year. All Oregon schools will create their own Operational Blueprints for Reentry and share it with their school district. The school and district are responsible for their own planning and processes.