



Sisters School District

“Home of the Outlaws”

Curtiss Scholl
Superintendent

December 16, 2020

Good afternoon Sisters Schools Community,

As we get ready for the holiday break, our elementary staff has been diligently working to prepare for a return to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) for our K-4 students. Earlier today, the Oregon Department of Education announced an extension to the “safe harbor” clause. What does this mean for Sisters? After the break, January 4th through January 8th, all Sisters schools will be in Comprehensive Distance Learning. On January 11th, SES will resume its hybrid in-person model under the extension of the “safe harbor” clause. Additionally, our other schools will resume Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) on January 11th as well.

I understand that Comprehensive Distance Learning is no one’s first choice in an educational model. The Oregon Health Authority and Deschutes County Public Health have predicted and seen increased case counts after every holiday throughout the pandemic. Our return to CDL for the week is to help protect our school community and to allow us to get back to and stay in our hybrid model. We are very excited about this extension and our ability to continue to serve our youngest learners in-person on the 11th.

While students appear to be less affected by COVID-19, our schools are an eco-system consisting of a wide range of hard-working people from our community. Although we know that schools are not “spreaders,” the continued high case count creates concern. The safety of the entire eco-system must be considered in any plans moving forward.

Earlier this month, Crook County schools had to return to CDL, not because of COVID-19 spread in the schools, but because the spread in the community required too many staff to be quarantined so their schools could not operate in their hybrid model.

I continue to ask that our community follow COVID-19 safety protocol; wear a mask, socially distance, and wash your hands. Although the COVID-19 case count dropped slightly in Deschutes County, we still need a significant reduction to get all students back into our hybrid model.

Stay safe and enjoy the winter break,

Curt Scholl
Superintendent
Sisters School District