

Safety – Social Distancing

How will social distancing be implemented? An all too common word in recent months...the school will engage in social distancing to the maximum degree possible. To address this, classroom space will allow for 35 square feet per student and student seating will be individualized (rather than sitting in groups). Student arrival at school will be staggered and students will need to go directly to their classroom rather than congregating in outdoor spaces, gyms, hallways, or common areas. Some areas of the school will be designated as “one way” hallways to allow for distancing and meal service will occur with the students class in their classroom. Six foot markings will help students self-monitor their proximity to others. Dismissal will be staggered as well. Teachers will train students on the social distancing guidelines while at school toward the start of the year and will reinforce these as needed.



Will students be required to wear face coverings? Yes, under current Department of Education guidance, students must wear face coverings. This

includes masks and shields, but bandanas are not acceptable. If a student comes without a mask, forgets it, or loses it, the school will provide one. FEMA has provided school districts in Oregon with approximately 5 million masks and Knappa is a recipient of several pallets for use by students and staff.

What about the school bus? One of the reasons we need to run a hybrid program is due to transportation. We are following social distancing on the bus which means there will be assigned seats on the bus. Additionally, this limits the load we can carry, which is why we can't transport every student every day and need to separate the grade K-3 run from the grade 4-12 run. That being said, the bus is an enclosed space with students that not in the typical cohort (their classroom). We require masks on the bus for the protection of each student and the driver. The drivers will be appropriately provided with protective equipment.

What else is the school doing to ensure social distancing? By having two cohorts, the number of students in the school is reduced by 25% at the elementary school and 50% at the middle and high schools. This reduction in students allows Knappa schools to maintain social distancing both in classrooms and school-wide. Students don't pass each other in the hallway as much, there is less volume needing to use restrooms, and (as mentioned above) a smaller load on the school bus.