

Reopening School Plan Summary 2020-21

The board has before them reopening plans for each building in the district to be approved. Upon approval, the plans will be posted to our website, submitted to ODE, and submitted to our local public health authority.

The plans that have been created follow the guidelines that the ODE first created on June 10, 2020 labeled version 1.0.0 (46 pages) with updates happening either weekly or bi-weekly with new versions happening as late as July 29, 2020, version 3.0.1 (75 pages). The principals have worked diligently to involve teachers, the local public health authority, the Burns Paiute tribe, and have listened to parents via email, phone calls, and social media throughout the summer. Their plans have morphed throughout the summer to the point where they are now. Each plan is flexible enough to change to comprehensive distance learning if required, and ultimately to return to the classroom in person when allowed. In the meantime, we plan to start operating our schools in a Hybrid model until such time permits students to return to school full time, depending on the metrics given to us by the state.

As of today, our current plans and recommendations to the board include starting school using our regular calendar with some exceptions. Our first official student day will continue to be August 24th, with that week being used to meet with students and families either as individuals or in small groups. Ultimately each building is planning on having students and/or parents come in either individually or in small groups to check out computers, meet teachers, ask questions, and get acquainted with what the year will look like. We have to be prepared to shift between models and this orientation week will help. Building principals will be sending out more details to families after the board approves our plans.

Our current recommendation to the board includes opening up schools in an A/B Hybrid format K-12. Students with last names A-L will be in the A group and last names M-Z will be in the B group, with exceptions being made for students with different last names in the same household. Students will have assigned classes and teachers as usual, but will generally only come to school two times a week. Group A will attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays and Group B will attend Tuesdays and Thursdays. Scheduled Fridays will be mandatory for those who have D's and F's and will also be available for any students who wish to connect with their teachers. We plan to stick with this model until the metrics and guidelines from the state either force us into comprehensive distance learning or we are allowed more in person contact. We anticipate that grades 4-12 will be in this A/B model for at least the first trimester (through Nov. 20th), while we are ever hopeful that after a month of doing A/B for grades K-3 (through Sept. 25th), we will be able to shift to full time in-person, but this will be completely dependent upon our ability to meet all the social distancing guidelines and the metrics from the state. We will continue to work with our local public health department that has become a strong partner with us in this endeavor.

While we realize that the A/B type model isn't ideal, we prefer this over the comprehensive distance learning model (online learning). Having our students back in school partially is a great start and will give us a chance to get things started with more control and more safety in mind.

This being said, we are cognizant of many parents who do not want their children to return to in person instruction. We are working to create a way to accommodate these children in a distance learning environment. Surveys are being conducted this week and once solid numbers are garnered, we can decide if some of our teachers can work with online students while others can work with our in person students.

To further support our students and teachers, we have partnered with two proven online learning providers to help both teachers and students manage courses, curriculum and online issues. Apex Learning will be used widely for regular courses in grades 6-12 and iCEV will be used for CTE related courses. Much of our current curriculum has both online and hardcopy resources available. Teachers will continue to use our core curriculum and take advantage of tools that they have at their disposal to deliver instruction, communicate with students, and enhance the learning experience. Our teachers know our students well and as we work together, we will be successful regardless of the model of learning that is taking place. Students will be expected to learn and have high expectations for learning as they progress toward graduation. We are prepared to deliver high quality instruction and support for all of our students. We are not interested in just getting by, but rather we must continue to help our students learn, grow, and develop. The new tools will help us create more flexibility for teachers and students, help us should a comprehensive distance learning model be required, and give us the opportunity to serve ALL of our students in a way that will benefit their learning.

The Apex Learning platform allows us the flexibility to offer students (in grades 6-12) an online option when coming to school in person will not work for that family. Students will continue to work with their assigned teacher in their assigned classes, regardless of the format of instruction they are receiving.

The Monroe school has a separate plan and includes working extremely close with the Oregon Youth Authority and Oregon Health Authority. The metrics they use in their system are completely separate from those used in the public schools. Monroe personnel have returned to the facility this summer to provide student learning, but has not returned to complete normalcy yet because of the configuration of their facility and inability to use the "county unit" for school as they have done in the past. They are operating with social distancing guidelines that strive to minimize exposure and keep students and staff safe.

We have added a bus route for transportation in an effort to reduce the number of students on each bus where social distancing is going to be a challenge. Masks are currently required for both students and staff while riding buses, as well as in buildings. We plan to have Para Professionals ride the morning buses to help keep track of who rides the bus each day as well

as to visually check students exhibiting any illness. Buses will be cleaned thoroughly after each use.

Social distancing procedures are outlined in each plan and include six feet distancing, cohorting students for tracking purposes, masks required for everyone, masks being available when someone either forgets or simply needs one, regular cleaning and extra cleaning when needed, and other outlined procedures to aid in disease prevention. The plans, as per the state guidance include plans to educate students about the importance of PPE, social distancing, and other measures to help prevent the spread of disease while discipline is not included as part of a student who is not following the guidelines. For students who ultimately refuse or simply cannot adhere to the guidelines, other models besides in person learning will be developed.

In regards to athletics, clubs, and activities, I am recommending that as long as current laws and guidelines are followed that allow these to take place, we as a district allow them to proceed regardless of the model the district currently finds itself. All social distancing guidelines and laws must be followed with plans in place by each coach/advisor and approved by the athletic director in order to proceed. The rationale for allowing these activities to take place is founded on the principle that our students need to have these activities for their mental and social well-being. It is also recognized that these groups operate in smaller cohorts than a school-wide cohort, thus being able to control and prevent the spread of disease much easier.

The school will work extremely closely with the local public health authority and rely on our communicable disease plan to help determine the steps we take in the case of both individual and small group outbreaks. Should a large outbreak occur in our schools or perhaps the county, we may need to revert to a comprehensive distance learning model.

While we highly prefer to have our students in school learning together as a large group, we recognize that at this time a Hybrid model is necessary to follow the guidelines that the state has given us to help our students and staff remain as safe as possible while being able to gain valuable education and take care of our social and emotional needs.

This summary is included as being approved by our board of directors once passed as outlining our overall plan of action regarding the reopening of the 2020-21 school year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Quick
Superintendent