

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J

www.vernonia.k12.or.us



October 27, 2020

Dear Vernonia School District Parents and Community,

I hope this letter finds you and yours well, as we continue to deal with this COVID pandemic. The District shared at the beginning of the school year that we would be Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) at least through the end of the first quarter.

As November 12 is coming near, the number of identified cases in Columbia County, neighboring counties where many of our employees live, and the State of Oregon as a whole, are not in the range that will allow school to resume.

Because of this the VSD will continue to implement CDL through the end of the second quarter. This makes the next opportunity for us to return to on-campus, in-person instruction the start of the third quarter, Thursday, February 4.

Although there is a lot of good instruction taking place during Comprehensive Distance Learning, the Vernonia School District (VSD) believes the best learning happens with face-to-face instruction, and we want to have our students physically back in school as soon as safely possible.

When returning to school, there are four potential options for in-person instruction: Limited In-Person Instruction, Pre-K through 3rd grade Exception, Hybrid Model, and Regular Instruction.

Currently we are offering Limited In-Person Instruction, but at this point, the earliest potential return date for any other form of instruction would be Thursday, February 4.

Our return plan opens school for in-person instruction, as designated by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in the following order as Covid-19 case metric requirements allow:

1. Limited In-Person Instruction
2. Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Exception
3. Hybrid Model
4. Regular Instruction

Limited In-Person Instruction is allowable regardless of the metrics as long as there have been no student or staff cases within the district in the past 14 days. It allows for small groups (cohorts) of up to 10 students to meet for no more than 2 hours per day. Students may not be part of more than 2 cohorts, including transportation. Staff may not

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be part of more than 3 cohorts on any given day and 5 cohorts in a week. See your child's Principal for more information.

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Exception allows for in-person instruction for primary students when cases per 100,000 fall below 30 for three straight weeks. The exception would allow us to begin in-person instruction for all kindergarten through third grade students to have in-person instruction, following the safety guidelines in our Operational Blueprint, located on the VSD website.

Hybrid Model would allow all students (K-12) to return to in-person instruction on an A/B schedule with half the students attending per day to create cohorts of 15 or less on average.

Regular Instruction would allow all students to return to full time in-person instruction without limitations.

Again, we continue to watch the statistics around the COVID pandemic, and are working to have our students back in school as soon as we can do so safely.

Please do your part by wearing your mask, maintaining social distancing, washing your hands and isolating when exhibiting any symptoms.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Miller'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Aaron Miller
Superintendent

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