

September 4, 2020

Dear Oregon School District Families,

The 2020-2021 school year begins on Tuesday (9/8) and our staff can't wait to start working with our students! Below are the informational update topics for this week - please note items below that have changed based on guidance from last week (additional details to follow):

- Online learning begins Tuesday;
- A note about Wednesday learning and attendance;
- Online registration reminder;
- Change to OSD meal program: meals free for all children;
- Amendment to public health order #9; and
- Phase-in planning continues.

Both staff and families have been absolutely fantastic about showing flexibility and resilience as we have navigated evolving information throughout the summer in preparation for the opening of school next week.

Again, I want to reiterate that I appreciate your flexibility, partnership, and kindness as we work together to create the best possible educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Leslie Bergstrom - Superintendent

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8

The first day of online instruction for all students is Tuesday, September 8. Details on how and when to access online classes have been (or will be) given to families this week by your student's teacher. Check out our [Back to School Checklist](#) to make sure you're ready.

In a regular school year, the first few weeks include time dedicated to building relationships, forming group norms, and establishing procedures - especially for younger students. Time dedicated to these topics is incredibly important, especially as we begin the year online. To accomplish this, students at the younger levels may begin in smaller groups for shorter periods of time and gradually work up to larger groups for longer periods of time with more academic content. Please know that we are

dedicated to rigorous, grade-level learning, and in order to accomplish this, we are strategically investing time in building relationships, procedures, and routines early in the year to help students succeed in the long-term. In essence, we are starting slow so we can go fast.

I encourage you to visit OregonSD.org/OnlineLearning for resources to help support your student with online learning. Items found on this page include instructions for navigating OSD systems (e.g., Google Classroom, Seesaw), devices (Chromebooks / tablets), and tips for successful online learning.

Wednesday Learning Days and Attendance

This is a reminder that Wednesdays is designated as a day for independent learning, projects, and catch up time. While there may not be real-time instruction on Wednesdays, teachers will be issuing assignments and learning for these days. It is expected that students will be engaging in all classes and learning assignments 5 days/week. If your student is not able to attend for any reason, please call the OSD Attendance Line at 835-4000 (option #1).

Annual Online Registration Reminder

All students must complete the annual online registration process to be registered for the 2020-2021 school year. It is imperative that all families complete the online registration process to ensure we have your updated contact information and understand preferences related to video recording and photo permissions. You received an email from OSD Registrar, Jennifer Hansen, on August 24 with instructions for completing the annual update. If you require assistance in completing registration, please contact Jennifer at jrhansen@OregonSD.org or 608-835-4033.

2020-2021 Meal Service Program Change: Free Meals Starting Tuesday (9/8)

Please note this change to the meal service program we shared with you last week. On Monday (8/31) the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved an extension of a waiver that allows us to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled in the Oregon School District through December 31, 2020. This means that all students enrolled in the District - either via Oregon Phased Restart or Oregon Online - will have the opportunity to get breakfast and lunch for free, regardless of eligibility. Students are not required to have funds in their account to receive meals through December 31. We encourage all families to participate and support our school nutrition program!

We will continue with our meal distribution plan and it will begin on Tuesday (9/8). Both delivery and curbside pickup options are free:

1. Delivery - we will deliver to your home or wherever your students are within the district boundaries. We plan to deliver meals daily, but this may change depending on where you live (families MUST sign up in advance to select this option).
2. Curbside Pickup (Netherwood/Prairie View Elementary)
 - 11:30-12:30pm Monday - Friday
 - 5:30-6:30pm Monday and Wednesday

We still ask that you [sign up](#) to help us plan for the correct quantities and offer the best possible service. The September menu is posted on our [interactive menu website](#).

Visit OregonSD.org/2020MealProgram or contact Sarah at osdmeals@OregonSD.org or 608-835-4036 with questions.

Change to Public Health Order #9

On Tuesday (9/1) Public Health Madison & Dane County released an [amendment to Emergency Order #9](#), allows for in-person instruction for students in any grade with a disability and/or an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who, due to their unique needs, may need to receive in-person instruction. To the extent that our enhanced virtual instruction and services are meeting student needs in grades 3-12, we will provide those supports and services virtually. In some cases, students may need to be seen for on-site services. Case managers will be in contact with students with these unique needs to discuss individual plans.

Phase in Planning Continues

As we move forward with the school year, we will be in a continual process of evaluating metrics and planning to phase into in-person learning as soon as possible. Know that our goal is to be back in person as quickly as we can. We are currently planning for extending the amount of in-person instruction for grades 4K-2 as well as offering in-person instruction for the older grades so we are ready to go as soon as the [reopening metrics](#) allow. We will be in frequent communication on these plans, as we know it impacts family plans and schedules.