



Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

Greetings 509J Community:

We hope this communication finds you and yours in good health and spirits.

You've likely heard that our reality has shifted once again as we navigate the pandemic and plan for the return to school. Although our hope was to welcome students back on site in some format, we know that our local and state response to the pandemic is in a constant state of change. Yesterday, Governor Kate Brown announced new health metrics ([click here](#)) that determine how and when school districts in Oregon will reopen.

These metrics are based on the number of COVID-19 cases and the COVID-19 positivity rate per capita—both on a county and statewide level—establishing requirements that must be met in order for in-person instruction to resume. Additionally, the metrics detail when the level of COVID-19 spread in a community would warrant a transition to [comprehensive distance learning](#) (CDL). You may view more information about current COVID cases by county statewide on the Oregon Health Authority's website by [clicking here](#).

Based upon yesterday's announcement we have shifted our focus and energy to planning for [comprehensive distance learning](#) as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. In an effort to create consistency for students and allow families to plan, the district will remain in Comprehensive Distance Learning for at least the first six weeks of instruction. While we are not able to be with students in-person as the year begins, we are planning a robust distance learning environment. We know that the pivot to short-term distance learning for all in the spring was, without a doubt, a crisis response and was designed for a limited duration. As we plan for fall, we are committed to providing high-quality distance learning opportunities for our students.

We are continuing to monitor the frequently shifting situation and requirements. At this point, we'd like to share the decisions that we have been able to make based upon survey responses and planning team meeting feedback to this point:

- The district will adopt a unified learning platform (i.e. Google Classroom)
- Virtual orientation will be provided to families and students

- The district will provide supports and services to students with special needs, (i.e. special education, 504, TAG, etc.)
- Chromebook devices will be provided for students that do not have one at home
- Hotspots will be available for families that do not have internet access in the home
- Technical support will be provided to families that need assistance

We want students back in our schools as soon as possible. The district will continue to monitor state and county health metrics, with a priority of returning students back to in-person learning as soon as it is safe and allowed by the state's metrics.

Thank you for your continued partnership and patience.

Sincerely,

Ken Parshall, Superintendent