



Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

July 15, 2020

Dear Family Members, Staff, and Students of Jefferson County 509-J,

I am writing to provide an update on our planning process for the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year. I hope you are well and will appreciate this information as we navigate these unusual times together.

Districts have been asked to plan for reopening in the fall and to consider three models for implementation. These models include 1) An “On-Site” learning model, 2) A Hybrid learning model (some on-site and some distance learning), and 3) A Distance Learning model. Our district invited families to provide feedback on two surveys in order to help inform staff in the planning process. The first survey focused on providing feedback on the distance learning model from last Spring and the second survey asked families to look forward to the fall and provide feedback for reopening in September.

Based on the feedback from 549 respondents to the second survey regarding reopening plans; our planning team has focused on examining the guidelines from the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority in order to determine how we might implement an on-site model for the reopening of schools, as this was the overwhelming preference of the 549 respondents. (Only 12 of the respondents indicated that they did not anticipate their student returning to on-site learning in the fall).

Our planning process is continuing and we intend to release a draft plan to families and staff during the week of July 20th - 24th. Families will have the opportunity to let us know if they are planning to send their student to school for on-site learning or if they would like to opt for a continuation of distance learning for their student. A survey to families will accompany the draft plan. Families and staff will have the opportunity to provide additional feedback and respond to the draft plan for consideration of the planning committee before proposing final plans for each school to the board on August 10, 2020. Our district is required to provide a reopening plan for each school and while schools are not required to implement the same model; we recognize that the potential of a consistent model for all schools within our district may be of benefit to families and staff members.

We believe we have a duty to provide an on-site option for students to attend school if we can do so within the guidelines provided for a safe and sanitary environment for our students and staff. We believe this is a possible model due to our generally large classroom sizes in terms of square footage and smaller class sizes in terms of numbers of students than many districts in our state.

Finally, guidance on reopening from the state remains a moving target. Additional revisions to the guidance is scheduled from the Oregon Department of Education on July 22nd and again on August 11th.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Parshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The background of the signature area is a light gray grid pattern.

Ken Parshall
Superintendent