



Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

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Dear Family Members, Students, and Staff of JCSD 509-J,

I'm writing to provide an update on our plans to reopen schools on Tuesday, September 8th, within the Comprehensive Distance Learning guidelines provided by the State of Oregon.

The State originally provided three models for districts to consider for reopening schools. These models included an "On-Site", "Hybrid", and "Comprehensive Distance Learning" options. Our district began the planning process to offer both the On-Site option and a distance learning option for our families. However, last week the Governor, ODE, and OHA (Oregon Health Authority) released health metrics which limited all schools within Jefferson County to the Comprehensive Distance Learning model until the level of positive Covid-19 test drops below the health metric guidelines. At that time, we announced that we will be starting the first six weeks of school in the Distance Learning Model.

Last spring, school staff and families were given little warning prior to the closing of schools. This provided minimal opportunity for school employees and families to plan for technology needs, systems for communication, training and support, and other logistics needed to make learning in the virtual environment highly effective. This summer, District employees have been researching, planning, and acquiring resources to ensure we are significantly more prepared to support our employees, students, and family members in the Comprehensive Distance Learning model.

In addition, we have expanded our district's Online Learning program to accommodate families who choose to opt into this model. In both options, students are expected to engage and log in on a daily basis for attendance and to make weekly progress based upon pacing guides for completion of courses. Comprehensive Distance Learning and Online Learning Program options are described below:

Comprehensive Distance Learning

Comprehensive distance learning (CDL) provides the opportunity for teachers, students, and classmates to remain connected and engaged with district content materials while working from a distance. Teachers will use live engagement tools such as Google Meets (K-12), as well as video and audio recorded lessons, to provide direct, teacher-supervised instruction. This will be a much more robust distance learning model than last spring and will be designed for the teacher and students to navigate back to on-site learning when health metrics allow us to return to traditional classroom teaching and learning. *This option is likely the best choice for families who plan to have their students return to in-person learning once metrics allow us to reopen our schools.*

Full-time Online Learning

Online learning creates opportunities for students to learn flexibly from home while maintaining direct contact with teachers through online tools and resources. Jefferson County School District will be providing a fully developed and vetted online curriculum facilitated by our teachers to students enrolling in a full-time online option. *This option is likely the best choice for families who plan to educate their students from home throughout the school year, even when students are invited to return to in-person learning.*

Regardless of your decision between Comprehensive Distance Learning or Full Time Online Learning, access to electronic content will be critical. Chromebooks will be available for student checkout, as well as portable hotspots for those without access to a home internet connection. These devices will be configured for offline document creation and editing, to allow students to continue learning when connectivity is unavailable. In addition, resources and an orientation schedule are being developed to provide assistance with use of these tools and avenues to access technical assistance are being created.

You will soon be asked to make a decision about which instructional model is the right fit for your student(s) and family, as well as inform us about your technology needs. We will continue to provide weekly updates to keep you informed of our planning progress. While we are disappointed we are not returning to in-person instruction to start the year, we are looking forward to seeing our students virtually and beginning the learning process.

Sincerely,

Ken Parshall
Superintendent