



Jefferson County School District 509J

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August 13, 2020

Dear Family Members and Students of JCSD 509-J,

I'm writing to provide another update on our plans to reopen schools on Tuesday, September 8th, within the Comprehensive Distance Learning guidelines provided by the State of Oregon. This shift to Comprehensive Distance Learning is not ideal, but is required due to the health metrics established by the Oregon Department of Education. We recognize the challenges these circumstances present, but we remain committed to the success of all of our students and families during these difficult times. On Tuesday we received yet another round of guidance from the Oregon Department of Education. This information included updates which may allow limited in person instruction within the Comprehensive Distance Learning model.

In this communication you will find:

- Information on school supplies
- Descriptions of two return to school options including Comprehensive Distance Learning and our new CASA Online Program
- Process for communicating your enrollment decision and technology needs

School Supplies

Our District will be purchasing school supplies for students this school year. A distribution plan will be communicated to families from their school in the next week. We know that families have a lot on their plate and we feel this is one item we can take care of at this time.

Comprehensive Distance Learning

Comprehensive Distance Learning maintains your child's connection to their local school. It provides the opportunity for teachers, students, and classmates to remain connected and engaged with district curriculum materials while working from a distance. Students remain part of their school and classroom community and will engage with friends and classmates as part of the virtual learning environment. You can expect a more comprehensive, cohesive, and robust program focused on teachers consistently connecting with students and families. This fully-developed distance learning model will be designed for the teacher and students to navigate back to on-site learning when health metrics allow us to return to onsite classroom teaching and learning. We anticipate that this option will be selected by most students.

CASA Online Learning

In our previous communication we introduced an option for our students and families referred to as "Full-Time Online Learning". We have named this program CASA Online Learning. This option, like Comprehensive Distance Learning, does require daily engagement and student login for attendance. This option creates opportunities for students to learn flexibly from home with support from JCSD teachers through online tools and resources. 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. This option works best for students who are self-motivated and are able to work independently with minimal teacher guidance.

Enrollment Decision and Technology Needs Forms

Access to digital content will be critical in either of the options described above. 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 continue to be developed to provide technical assistance and digital tools. The schedule for orientation and device pick up will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

As we gather the information needed to meet the needs of our students, your participation is critical. Please review the learning options on the [Safely Returning to School Site](#). Once you've read the information, select your preferred learning model using the form at the bottom of the page. You also have the opportunity to share your technology needs using the same website link.

*Please complete the form to indicate your school model selection for each student in your household **no later than August 20, 2020.***

If you cannot complete the online version of this form, please call 541.475.7743 and leave a message with your contact information and question, or email us at learning@509j.net. Please share the phone number with friends and family you may know who cannot access an online form.

Returning to in-person instruction is one of our highest priorities. However, unless community spread is reduced, reopening schools to in-person instruction will be difficult within current guidelines. Please follow recommendations from our local and state health departments to ensure our best opportunities to reduce the virus spread in order for us to return to on site learning as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and patience through this challenge. We are excited for the return of our students to school!

Sincerely,

Ken Parshall
Superintendent