



Jefferson County School District 509J

UNITE. ENGAGE. SOAR.

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Dear JCSD 509-J Families,

We are eagerly awaiting the official start of our new school year next week. Please carefully review the important updates below and contact your school or teacher with any questions you may have.

Orientations for Students and Families on Google Classroom and Google Meet:

Students and families will be contacted next week (September 8-11) to schedule an important orientation, learn how to navigate Google Classroom and participate in lessons in the Comprehensive Distance Learning Model (CDL). In addition, teachers will engage students in building a positive classroom environment within the Google Meet format and get to know their students.

Professional Learning for Teachers:

Our teachers and administrators have engaged in extensive professional learning this summer in order to increase their capacity to deliver high quality instruction through a digital format. Teachers will use technology and learning resources to engage students in different ways to increase student participation and learning in this new environment.

Health Metric Updates and Improving Trend - Decreasing Cases in Jefferson County:

Oregon has set some of the most stringent health metrics in the country for returning to on-site learning. We must meet the following standards to return to an In-Person Instruction:

- Grades K-3
 - Both Oregon and Jefferson County must have less than 5% positivity rate for the past three weeks in a row and;
 - The case rate in Jefferson County is 30 cases or less per 100,000 people (no more than 7 cases per week) for the past three weeks in a row
- Grades 4-12
 - Both Oregon and Jefferson County must have less than 5% positivity rate for three weeks in a row and;
 - The case rate in Jefferson County is 10 cases or less per 100,000 people (no more than 2 cases per week) for the past three weeks in a row

The promising news is that there has been a recent downward trend of those testing positive for Covid-19 in Oregon and Jefferson County. For the first time in several months, the rate of positive tests in Oregon dropped below 5% last week. Jefferson County, which had a high positive test rate of 17% in July, dropped to 7.4% positive test rate last week. In addition we have seen a significant drop in the number of cases per 100,000 people. This downward trend of cases in our county gives us hope in the weeks to come. When our county rates drop below the required metrics, we can launch our on-site learning model. This will require advance planning with staff and families, so we will keep all stakeholders informed as we move forward.

Limited In-Person Small Group Instruction:

The most recent guidance received from the Oregon Department of Education allows for school districts to utilize “limited In-person Instruction” with strict health and safety protocols. Our district does plan to utilize this option for small groups of students and will begin to implement this strategy as soon as mid to end of October.

High School Athletics Update:

September 14th to 27th will be a two week period for coaches to obtain certifications required by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) and student-athletes to obtain physical examinations required every two years by the OSAA as well as complete other paperwork required for participation in athletics. “Season One” (the period allowed for athletic activities outside the regular school athletic seasons) will begin on September 29th and proceed through December 18th and will be divided into three mini-seasons (spring, fall, winter) as described in the latest communication from MHS Athletic Director Evan Brown. [Season 1 Information](#)

Ken Parshall

Superintendent

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