

Sherman County School



"Home of the Huskies"

August 4, 2020

Dear Sherman County School Parents, Students, Staff and Community,

As August 2020 begins, we want to again share our deepest appreciation for your continued patience as we develop our local educational plans under ever changing guidance that we are experiencing on an almost daily basis. With the health and safety of our students and staff as our top priority, we continue to analyze and consider many sources of information that has shown constant increases in Covid-19 infection rates in Sherman County, the State and throughout the United States. At the same time, we have a laser focus on aligning our decisions with guidance from the Governor, Oregon Department of Education, and the Oregon Health Authority regarding new metrics and parameters for opening schools.

As stated in previous letters and personal communications to each family in our District, we have been faithfully working on a safe plan to reopen with on-site learning and family options for distance learning. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly apparent that on-site learning is not feasible under the current metrics and directives from the state. Please know that, when we are able to do so, a safe reopening model will be implemented if conditions improve. We want your children here on campus. That being said, for the safety of the Sherman County School Community, we will begin the 2020-21 school year in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) until we can welcome back students in-person or in a hybrid model.

Our dedicated staff are much more prepared for CDL than when we made the initial pivot to this type of learning back in March. In order to provide consistent and meaningful instruction, with fidelity, K-12 will be using Google Classroom as our Learning Management System with incorporation of Acellus and other research-based programs to supplement coursework. Acellus is an accredited and effective online platform for K-12 which is being implemented by numerous other school districts in our region.

Our primary goal is to resume on-site instruction to the fullest extent possible. The use of Acellus as a curriculum supplement allows for a seamless transition back to on-site/hybrid modeling. Students/families would be afforded the opportunity to continue with Acellus if their comfort did not allow for a return to campus.

Additionally, our improved distance learning plan will include:

- High quality direct instruction and ongoing support for students by teacher(s)
- Effective synchronous and asynchronous learning formats
- Predictable and flexible routines for daily learning activities
- Ongoing trainings and support for families
- Progress monitoring and continuous assessment to gauge student progress
- Clear and consistent grading practices
- Clarity around attendance and participation
- Frequent personal communication
- Counseling and mental/physical/emotional health services
- Continuation of meal services

The Sherman County Board of Directors will be reviewing our tentative plan at the next Board meeting to be held virtually on August 10th. We have heard from many parents/guardians/constituents of the Sherman County School

community and share in your disappointment that our school may not be able to reopen on September 2 due to the new metric information.

As always, it is our intention to keep you informed as we move forward together. We are sure that families and students have many questions about the details of what school will look like starting in September. During the month of August, we will be hosting virtual meetings and sharing informational videos to keep you updated. Links to these meetings/videos will be shared with you at a later date. Together, we will do all that we can to make this a positive experience, and provide our students with the best education and life experiences possible.

Please be safe and look out for others in our community,



Wes Owens
Superintendent



Brittany Waggoner
Principal



Samantha R-Smith
K-6 Representative



Gerald Casper
7-12 Representative