

# Sherman County School

*"Home of the Huskies"*



September 14, 2020

Sherman County School Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

After weeks of anticipation, I have some exciting news to share with you! The news comes to us two weeks prior to the previously communicated reassessment date of September 28. Earlier today, the North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) shared that we now meet the criteria for on-site learning.

Throughout the past two months, I have been working closely with the NCPHD and I want to personally thank their entire staff for their continuous collaboration and teamwork. With the current information from today's announcement, Sherman County School will be implementing a phased approach to gradually welcome back students to on-site learning. Phasing students back to on-site learning, with the new routines, procedures and learning experiences that align with guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, and the NCPHD, will begin with our youngest students.

The following is the phased plan for parent, guardian, staff, and community preparation:

- September 21 Grades K-3 On-Site Instruction (CDL through September 18)
- September 28 Grades 4-6 On-Site Instruction (CDL through September 25)
- October 5 Grades 7-12 On-Site Instruction-A/B Block Schedule (CDL through October 2)

When the aforementioned groups return, full day on-site instruction will take place Monday-Thursday with half day Friday's transitioning to a Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) schedule in support of continued training in the event we are required to return to full distance learning. Grades 7-12 will continue with block scheduling in an A/B rotation.

The NCPHD has cautioned that we may likely move in and out of distance learning if COVID-19 cases spike. The time we are spending perfecting CDL will be invaluable during these transitions, if and when they occur. In only one week of CDL, teachers and students have grown leaps and bounds. This transition time will keep the momentum going with new ideas and techniques that we will be able to use throughout the school year and the rest of our lives.

Below are some key points as we transition back to on-site learning:

- On-site learning will look different than years past.
- All students and staff will be required to wear a face covering.
- Regular transportation routes will be implemented (Pick-up times will be shared by Mid-Columbia Transportation by September 18 for K-3 students). You are also welcome to drop-off students after 7:45 a.m.
- Contact tracing protocols will be implemented.
- Only staff and students will be able to access the school facility.
- Designated staff will be stationed at entry points to support staggered access and visual screening.

- Grade level cohorts will be maintained (Breakfast, Lunch, Recess, Library, Music, Physical Education, etc.).
- Frequent cleaning and sanitization will occur in classrooms, restrooms, busses and high touch areas daily. Facility deep cleaning will occur on Friday's.
- Students will not use lockers to store personal property (please focus on essential educational items only each school day).
- We will offer free breakfast and lunch for all students through December 31.
- Families and students will still have the opportunity to choose virtual learning through Sherman County School when their respective grade level returns to on-site learning. Please let us know, at your earliest convenience, if you plan to stay with CDL when students return to on-site learning. You can do this by calling the school or communicating to your classroom/homeroom teacher.

Returning Sherman County students to on-site learning during a pandemic is an enormous responsibility that is shared by the school, staff, parents, community, and regional/state public health organizations. Please know we will do everything in our power to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 at Sherman County School. There is no better time than now to work together, as a school community, to follow the safety precautions of wearing face coverings, maintaining distance, and frequently washing/sanitizing hands. Doing this can better ensure all students can return on-site and stay in the classroom.

The 2020-21 school year is something none of us could have predicted or fully prepared for, but I am thankful that we are getting closer to celebrating the return of students to Sherman County School. I truly appreciate your partnership and will continue to share pertinent updates as they become available.

Please give me a call at 541-565-3500 or send me an email at [wowens@sherman.k12.or.us](mailto:wowens@sherman.k12.or.us) if you have any questions.

Be safe,



Wes Owens