

Sherman County School

"Home of the Huskies"



March 12, 2020

Dear Sherman County School Community,

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases in Oregon increasing, Governor Brown announced new guidance on March 12, regarding group gatherings and social distancing. We remain committed to keeping our schools open and safe. In accordance with this new guidance and in order to minimize potential opportunities for the virus to spread, we have decided to proactively begin suspending certain events and activities. This action is not related to a presumptive case. As of this writing, there are no presumptive cases in Sherman County or at Sherman County School.

At this time, suspension of non-essential school-based activities begins immediately, effective Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect indefinitely. This includes the suspension of all school-based assemblies and events, off-campus field trips, professional development events and non-essential meetings. All extracurricular activities including athletic competitions will be suspended indefinitely (this includes baseball, tennis, track, Missoula Children's Theater and the State FFA Convention). After school programs are considered an extension of the school day and will not be suspended at this time (SKORE, Husky Helping Hands, etc.). Athletic practices, at this time, will go on as regularly scheduled. The list of affected activities may grow as we work with partners and stakeholders over the coming days. We will update you as we make those decisions.

We realize that this decision will impact our school community, and we know that many of the events, student performances, and other gatherings that we are suspending are those that schools, students, and families look forward to all year long. Suspending these events is consistent with guidance from health authorities, and we believe it is a prudent and responsible step to take at this time. We will be working with trip planners, event organizers, and others who are responsible for the affected activities.

The health, and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. We will continue to work in close partnership with public health authorities to minimize both the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and disruption to schools and students. We will continue emphasizing the importance of handwashing at school. Our custodians will continue to prioritize high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common areas and we are making sure classrooms have adequate cleaning supplies. In addition, Mid-Columbia transportation is disinfecting all buses before each route.

Students, families, and everyone in our community can best support our efforts by washing hands frequently, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer. Those experiencing symptoms of the cold or flu should stay at home, only returning to school or work when symptom-free for 24 hours. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. We will continue to rely on the guidance from Oregon public health authorities, the Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor. We all collectively share the utmost concern for the health and safety of our students, employees, and community.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens