



## Weekly Parent Update August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Valued Families,

It's hard to believe there's just one month left until the 2020-21 school year kicks off. Today we welcomed our principals back after their annual time off in July. We are in full planning mode and working hard every day to prepare for the new year. You can expect to hear consistent communication from each building and your principals. We want to make sure families stay in the loop as we approach September 8th.

### **SCHOOL SUCCESS STARTS WITH A JUMP START**

Kindergarten Jump Start kicked off this week with over 80 students between Barnes Butte and Crooked River. The yearly program introduces our little ones to the school environment and has been a huge success. We've also been pleasantly surprised at how well the children are adjusting to wearing masks in the classroom. It just goes to prove that children are truly resilient!

You can view a fun little story on Jump Start that aired this week on [Central Oregon Daily](#).

### **HEALTH METRICS SHIFT FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS**

Crook County did have a spike in Covid-19 cases last week that caused our community to be outside the health metrics for opening K-3 in the classrooms. However, we still have a full month before school officially begins, and there are conversations occurring in Salem about the possibility of adjusting the metrics for rural counties. Also, Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Department of Education will be announcing additional guidance for reopening schools on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. We commit to providing you an update next week.

### **HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS DELAYED UNTIL 2021**

The Oregon Schools Activities Association (OSAA) announced this week that fall sports have been pushed to next spring and all seasons condensed between January and June. You can find the full update and the new schedule [here on the OSAA website](#). This means no sports competitions will happen at the high school level until the end of December. OSAA has created a "Season 1" that occurs from August 31<sup>st</sup> through December 27<sup>th</sup>. Teams can practice during that time and coaches are allowed to have contact with players. We don't know yet what that means for competitions, so we'll send an update to parents when we know more.

## **ONLINE EDUCATION**

We've heard from parents that there are concerns about how online/distancing learning will look given the experience from last spring. We are working on a very clear structure that will help both students and teachers. For additional information, please check out this week's Fireside Chat now uploaded to the school district's YouTube Page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbeSg1sjGyChyfcSoOHTLCw/>

## **PHONE NUMBER CORRECTION**

Registration is open! We sent a letter home earlier this week with an update. There was a typo on the phone number for Mr. Jonny Oelkers, the coordinator for our new Homeschool Partner Program. Here's the corrected information:

- [Jonathan.oelkers@crookcounty.k12.or.us](mailto:Jonathan.oelkers@crookcounty.k12.or.us)
- (541) 416-4153, ext. 3670

We stand ready to serve your children and the Crook County community. It is a privilege. I look forward to a good year, regardless of the challenges.

Warm regards,



Dr. Sara E. Johnson, Superintendent