



WEEKLY STAFF UPDATE

July 31st, 2020

Dear Valued Families,

I hope you're staying cool during this hot weather, and finding some calm in these uncertain times!

We believed our planning over the last couple of weeks was on target for school starting September 8th with all students and staff in our buildings. Unfortunately, new Health Metrics announced by the Governor's Office this week only allows our K-3 students back until things improve. All students in 4th – 12th grades will begin online.

We're obviously disappointed, because we know that students learn better interacting in-person with teachers and classmates. We planned for a normal reopening September 8th, but these new health metrics from Salem have put a pause on that.

Here's an outline of how the metrics work for each county in Oregon:

- 10 or fewer cases per 100,000 people and an active case rate of less than 5% of the total population for three straight weeks before all students can return to classrooms.
- There can be no active outbreaks
- As of Friday, July 31st, Crook County has 28.7 cases per 100,000 and an active case rate of 2.8%. This means most students will learn from home.

Exception for younger students in kindergarten through 3rd grade:

- If cases are below 30 per 100,000 and less than 5% of the total population with no active outbreaks, then K-3 students are allowed in the classrooms.
- As of now, Crook County meets that metric with a case rate of 28.7 per 100,000 and a positivity rate of 2.8%. The district will closely monitor case numbers throughout August.

The school district is retooling its distance learning options based on parent feedback from last spring. Every day, teachers will provide interactive virtual instruction with both hands-on and digital curriculum. Workbooks will also be included and the district plans to invest in training and support for teachers so students receive a more robust experience at home. Crook County High School will continue to offer its regular menu of online and hybrid options.

We've developed an outline of what educational options will look like can be found on our website here: <http://crookcounty.k12.or.us/files/2020/07/Opening-Options-7-31-20-1.pdf>

In addition, CCSD is launching a new option called the Homeschool Partner Program for K-8 students. Families who choose this option will educate their children from home while receiving resources,

coordination, and support from teachers and the school district. This includes the opportunity for homeschool students to take electives and other classes based on parent choice. Former CCHS science teacher, Jonny Oelkers, will be the new K-8 Homeschool Coordinator and serve as the district's advocate for families who choose that option. Mr. Oelkers has experience in the classroom and currently homeschools his own children, so he brings a unique perspective to the program.

If you're interested in the Homeschool Partner Program, you can contact Mr. Oelkers:

- Jonathan.oelkers@crookcounty.k12.or.us
- (541) 903-0565

The school district is committed to making sure all students are back in the classroom as soon as Crook County's health metrics allow. We'll continually review the data and the district has set potential dates through the end of the year for a possible return to school.

Review Virus Data

August 15th

September 15th

October 15th

November 15th

Potential School Reopening

September 8th (K-3 Only)

October 5th (All Students)

November 2nd (All Students)

December 1st (All Students)

We will continue sending weekly updates each Friday afternoon with the latest information, and please continue to check your email, Facebook page, and our website for daily updates.

For more information, you can also watch today's Fireside Chat, which is now uploaded to the district's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbeSg1sjGyChyfcSoOHTLCw/>

Warm regards,



Dr. Sara E. Johnson, Superintendent