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# Lyle School District

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August 17, 2020

Dear Cougar Families,

Last week, we announced that our plan for reopening school would be on a hybrid schedule, with most students receiving two days of in-person instruction each week. Our goal has always been to have students receive in-person instruction as much as possible, but on **Friday, the health department advised us that we needed to reduce the number of students in each classroom even further.** This is because of a sudden increase in COVID-19 cases in Klickitat County, including a large number in White Salmon, where quite a few of our staff people live.

We've been told from the start that we may need to move to a more restricted in-person instruction schedule. We're grateful that, at this time, we can at least have small groups of students receiving instruction at school. To meet the state health department's requirements, we are currently limited to five individuals per room.

Our goal is to provide all students who need the extra support and want the in-person interaction at least one day per week on campus. It will require utilizing every spare space in the school and having para-educators provide small group interventions.

**Here are some important things to know:**

**If you want your child to participate in remote learning only, there's no need to home school.** Your child can remain in our district and receive instruction on an entirely remote basis, using brand new technology purchased by the district.

**Remote instruction will not be the same as last year in Lyle School District.** Using state and federal grants, we purchased enough laptops for every student in preparation for this very kind of situation. We also equipped every classroom with a "ViewSonic Board," a large electronic screen that will let our teachers provide daily instruction and interact with students in the classroom and at home at the same time.

Right now, some of you are saying, "But, our Internet service isn't good enough." If that's the case, and you didn't participate in a survey a couple of weeks ago or speak directly to school staff about your Internet service, we need to hear from you as soon as possible. **If we don't hear from you, we will assume you do have the bandwidth needed for on-line instruction.**

**Children without adequate Internet at home will have priority as we schedule our on-site instruction schedules.** You can help us make this schedule the best it can be from the outset by talking to us now. Call 509-365-2211 and dial extension 120 when the automated message comes on.

The other group of students we will prioritize as we plan our schedule are those with educational needs that aren't well-served remotely. **If your child struggles with on-line instruction, we will do our best to provide as much in-school instruction as we can.** Again, remember – our remote instruction will not be the same as last year.

At the secondary level, scheduling small groups is highly complicated. We have built the master schedule to focus on core classes this first trimester:

- Science
- English Language Arts
- History
- Math (all secondary students will have a full year of math this year)

We will continue with plans to offer five classes a day in a trimester model. Some electives also will be available in the first trimester.

**Some other housekeeping details:**

**The state is requiring schools to take attendance for remote instruction, too.** Students must join the class online at the regularly scheduled time, or will be counted absent unless parents call/email to excuse the absence. This includes elementary students.

**Meals will be provided for all five days of the week, except those with pre-scheduled holidays.** Your child will be sent home with extra meal items on the days they attend school. Parents may also stop by the school to pick up meals.

**A lot of you are calling and asking for specific schedules or school supply lists.**

We're asking for your continued patience. As you can imagine, the changes in schedules as our plans are forced to flex and change require a great deal of logistical coordination.

**There's some good news regarding school supplies, though.** The school will be providing the basic supplies for our elementary students and possibly for our secondary, too. If you are shopping and want to contribute items, we're planning on providing lined paper, crayons, pencils, little scissors, pencil boxes and glue sticks to mention a few. There's no official supply drive as yet, but if you are financially able and want to help, we'll accept donations at the school office.

**Lastly, you're going to see a change to the district website this week.** We have moved to another website provider that will provide the district considerable cost savings and is a more mobile-friendly format. So those of you who only access the Internet on your cell phones should find it easier to navigate (we see you, Generation "Y").

The URL is the same: [www.lyleschools.org](http://www.lyleschools.org). It has lots of ways to navigate to the information you're looking for. We'd love to know what you think and what we can do to make it better meet your needs. Email [deb.stenberg@lyleschools.org](mailto:deb.stenberg@lyleschools.org) with your suggestions.

Thanks and continue to stay tuned. We will continue to push out information as we have it. We understand these changes are happening quickly and that this is frustrating. The county makes these determinations based on the number of cases in the county and the potential for community spread based on where people live, work and shop.

By working together and following health department recommendations, we can quickly work through this phase and will be able to re-evaluate how we will serve students in the near future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ann Varkados, Superintendent



Lori Smith, Principal