

# Lyle School District

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September 22, 2020

Dear Cougar Families,

We have some GREAT news to share! The Department of Health has given us the go-ahead to have more students at school as we move forward in October.

This is thanks to you and to our neighbors, who have been masking up, physical distancing, washing hands and keeping surfaces clean – all those safety measures that have helped keep the number of COVID-19 cases in our community, and in the county, low.

Assuming the county's COVID-19 infection rate stays low, you will see a gradual increase in the number of students in the school over the next couple of months, starting with our youngest learners. Health authorities suggest this approach, noting that younger children struggle most with distance learning, are at a critical stage in their development, appear to have milder symptoms with the disease and transmit COVID-19 less.

Currently, our plan is that, beginning October 5:

- Kindergarten and first grade students will attend school in person and full time, and;
- All students in grades 2-8 will receive in-person instruction at least twice a week.

We will implement this plan gradually, one or two grades at a time, waiting a couple of weeks each time, so that we can monitor and review any potential safety issues and adjust as we go.

In grades 9 through 12, we are taking a more individualized approach. We will increase numbers as we can, based on safety requirements and students' individual learning styles. The cohorts your child/ren are currently part of will be maintained and expanded judiciously.

Don't panic if you want your child to continue learning remotely. Families who prefer to continue online remote learning can do so, regardless of the child's grade level.

Your child's schedule will not change immediately. The school will email and call families to notify them when their child's on-site schedule has additional days.

We are pleased that we now have this flexibility in providing students who need more in-person instruction, including those without adequate home Internet, additional days at school. We're also glad we can adjust students' schedules gradually in order to assure everyone that appropriate distancing is still possible.

## Some Things to Know:

- If you want to continue all on-line learning, we understand and will accommodate your wishes through the remainder of the school year.
- Be patient as we gradually increase the number of at-school days for students. We want to move carefully, because, if we do get COVID-19 cases at school, we'll have to start over. That would mean school being completely closed for at least two weeks, just to begin with.
- Meals will continue to be Grab and Go, and will be provided for at-home learning days, too, if you wish to receive them. They should be picked up on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. or 3 p.m. at the kitchen entrance unless other arrangements have been made.
- The school and transportation department will continue to follow all current safety practices. Bus pick-up times will change as we increase the numbers of students coming to school – please continue to watch our website and Facebook page, too.

We will continue to update you on school logistics, transportation and meals. We know that remote learning is difficult for students, families and teachers, and that it is simply not as effective for all students as in-person learning. We appreciate all the work that our parents, teachers and classified staff are doing to help students learn at home and provide engaging learning experiences in a virtual environment.

We, like you, want to get our students back into the classroom as soon as we can, but also do it safely and in a way that minimizes risks to our students, staff and families.

To help us keep our students learning in school as much as possible, please continue to wear your mask in public, keep up that social distancing, and wash your hands!

Stay safe and healthy,



Ann Varkados, EdD, Superintendent,  
Lyle School District



Lori Smith,  
Principal