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Corbett School District No. 39

Dear Corbett Families,

As we get closer to the school year, we wanted to provide you with up to date information about our efforts to safely reopen schools in September. You may be aware that the Oregon Department of Education released statewide guidelines for the safe reopening of schools for the 20-21 school year. We recently sent a survey to our families to get feedback on ideas of how we can safely reopen in September. There are still many details to problem solve and today we can give you an update of what we know and what we are still working on as a district.

What we know:

- The state guideline focuses on three core standards that help minimize the risk of spread of the virus:
 - **Health and safety protocols:** (How we clean and sanitize, how we cohort students for contact tracing, entry and exit rules, etc.)
 - **Social distancing:** Classroom capacity is limited to 35sqft per person. There are also increased safety protocols for buses.
 - **Hygiene:** All schools will focus on hygiene expectations to keep everyone as safe as possible. This includes increased expectations for handwashing and sanitizing on a frequent basis. We will also provide and require face shields/face coverings for all staff. This protective equipment will be provided to all employees. In addition, while we cannot require face coverings for students, we will strongly recommend face coverings for all students unless there is a health condition or disability that may interfere with a student wearing a face covering.
- **In order to safely distance students, we will offer an alternating A/B schedule that will offer an all-day school for all students two days a week.** We recognize this is not an ideal school schedule but in order to reduce the risks, we will strictly follow the guidelines provided by the state. The students will continue to receive online assignments and support on the days they are not attending school. We will provide more specific details to our schedule at the end of July. As an example, your children may attend on-site on Monday and Wednesday and access online learning on Tuesday and Thursday. We will do our best to ensure that families/siblings are attending school on the same days.
- **We will offer an online-only version of school this fall for families who are not comfortable with the A-B school schedule. If you're not planning to send your child(ren) to the on-site option, we kindly ask that you complete the survey (forthcoming) so we can plan accordingly and provide you with online school information as we develop our program.**

- We will provide meals as usual. For families experiencing need, meals will be available for take home on Fridays for the following week.
- We will prioritize support for our students with specialized needs, and provide as much specialized support as needed.
- We will continue to purchase technology supports, cleaning supplies, facial coverings, etc... so we are ready to start school in the fall.
- We know that reopening guidance can change based on the spread of the virus, and this will play a role in the measures we take to reduce the risks for students, staff, and families. We will continue to update you as we learn more.

What we don't know:

- **We anticipate changes to our calendar and school schedule pending approval of the board at the July 15th school board meeting.** This may include an earlier dismissal time to support distance learning.
- We still await decisions from our legislature on school funding. Based on the revenue forecast from May, we may face budget cuts if there are not any interventions at the federal and state level. As of today, we are expecting our state legislature to meet this summer and determine if they will develop strategies to reduce the impact on our schools. These cuts would be significant in Corbett.
- We are still working with our labor groups to determine how we best prepare for a 'hybrid' school year. We want our staff to come back reassured that we are doing our best to keep them safe. We must provide additional training, preparation time, and equipment in order for staff and students to be successful. We are still working on finalizing the schedule. We have to determine how to safely transport students who ride the bus and how to safely feed students every day.
- We don't know about sports and other extracurricular activities yet. Due to the evolving issues with the virus, we still await more guidance.

We know this process is difficult and not knowing all the details can be frustrating. We are working to gather information and create plans for a safe return to school. Corbett is intent on creating a hybrid learning experience that is safe and effective in helping students learn. We will stay in touch and keep you informed as we solidify our plans. Look forward to an additional survey that will help us assess specific needs of families. Thank you for your patience and support.

Sincerely,

The Corbett District Administrative Team