



NESTUCCA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Inspiring individual excellence, instilling diligence,
And initiating life-long learning.*

Misty Wharton

Superintendent

Megan Kellow

Student Services Director

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Human Resources Specialist

February 18, 2021

Nestucca Valley Community,

Thank you to all who attended our Virtual Town Hall meeting! It is exciting to be driving towards a date to welcome back our students into a hybrid model of instruction. I understand, and feel, the frustration that all of us have faced in this pandemic. I realize that our March 30, 2021 start date is not soon enough for some stakeholders. I also hear and understand those stakeholders who do not yet feel comfortable sending their children back to the school buildings. I am also a parent of a child in this school district and her needs are always on my mind, as your child's/children needs are on yours.

As educators, we have the fortunate advantage of working with all different types of children and families. This gives educators the ability to have a wider scope of understanding students' needs, both social and emotional, as well as academic. As a parent, you are an expert on your child/children, and inherently know what your child needs. As a school governance team, we have to make decisions for all children in our community, and what works well for some, does not work well for others. The major challenge in education, whether in person or remote, is developing an educational system that meets all needs.

They do not teach educators how to do this in a pandemic and we have worked together to develop a system to educate and feed the children of our community. While these developed systems have worked well for some, we acknowledge that this is not the case for everyone. We have developed systems that have driven us to this point and now find ourselves, once again, developing a new system, the hybrid model of instruction.

System development takes time and in order to launch our hybrid model in NVSD, we will need every day that leads up to March 30 to develop this for a successful and safe launch. Going forward, our educators and parents will have to work together more closely than ever before to meet the needs of our students. One of the best ways for all of us to work together effectively is for all of us to be accessing and educating ourselves about what lies ahead for our children. Below you will find a list of resources and links

that will help you as a parent answer some of the questions and concerns you may have about this transition to the hybrid model.

Current Oregon Department of Education Blue Print for NVSD:

<https://www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/content/2020-21.LIPI.Operational.Blueprint.pdf>

This is the “one stop” resource for parents that details the following three categories,

- 1 Public Health Protocols
- 2 Facilities and School Operations
- 3 Response to Outbreak

Specific to each school building.

Many of the questions we are currently receiving can be found in this resource. Also of importance to note is that this document will be updated again in the next two weeks, with even more details for each facility.

Link to recording of Virtual Town Hall Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/Lu2YSS_ARhW0Zj4_R-qZhtqrZ29V6p-BMM_LQT1DY5FicVd28XsazujoNcn104akrdrW_Dponf2DwUG3.Jopp7IYyPZJiCVhi?continueMode=true

Link to slide show from town hall meeting, with slide containing JRSR High mock schedules, and athletics information:

<https://www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/content/TownHall-2021.Feb17.pdf>

Link to defining COVID 19 symptoms that the district must use as well as quarantine and seclusion scenarios:

<https://www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/content/COVID-19ExclusionSummaryChart.pdf>

Link to the start of our FAQ generated from the Town Hall meeting:

<https://www.nestucca.k12.or.us/do/content/HybridInstruction-FAQ.pdf>

Link to ODE website with all resources that determine the rules for home education is offered in the state:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx>

If you have not done so, please click on this link and register your child for either hybrid or CDL instruction for the remainder of the school year.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D8WXSXS>

We are always available for questions. If after reviewing the linked materials you have a question, please ask. An email to Jamie Carver at jamiec@nestucca.k12.or.us is a great way to get the question process started. Jamie can filter the questions to the appropriate people for answers.

It is my strong hope that the launch of our 2021-2022 school year will look more “normal” for our children. I know that all parents want their children back in our school building full time, as do our educators. The determining entities, for full-time attendance on site, is the Oregon Department of Education in collaboration with the Governor’s office and Oregon Health Authority. Only time will tell when we will be able to have our students in the school buildings full time. Our next step into hybrid instruction and competitive athletics brings us one step closer, as does more and more of the population receiving access to the COVID 19 vaccine.

Many of you have voiced concern that our children are behind or have lost ground in their learning. I share this concern, but until we have the students back in the buildings and are able to assess if there are areas for concern, we will wait to draft an official plan of intervention. One of the greatest things about this community and school district is that the size of the student population allows us to know our students very well. I am confident that once we are able to implement our hybrid instruction model, we will quickly be able to assess what our students need. That is what we have been trained to do. As for the concept of them being “behind,” we as adults will need to reshape our thinking of what grade level is. Since the entire world has endured this, every country will be struggling to reshape learning benchmarks for children. What I do know after 20 years in education is that kids “get it” much faster than adults think they will, often beating adults to acceptance.

Thank you to all families and community members in the NVSD. I feel that overall our community has been very, very fortunate throughout this pandemic in relation to other communities. We look forward to working with each of you to make our next chapter, hybrid instruction on March 30, successful for our students. I know I speak for all of the staff of NVSD when I say that we have missed the students and families and cannot wait to launch into our next phase of education in a global pandemic.

Stay safe and take care,


Misty Wharton