



## 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

*Kim Seals*  
Financial Services Liaison

*Ursula McVittie*  
Human Resources Specialist

September 10, 2021

Thank you to all for attending the virtual Q&A meeting we held on Wednesday evening. If you were unable to attend, there is a link to the recording on our website. It is my hope that you left the meeting with a greater understanding of the rationale for taking a measured approach to In-Person learning. I do apologize for another long letter, as I am certain that each of you have letter fatigue by now, but this is the best way to update our community at this time.

It is difficult to convey all of the spinning plates that must be considered in operating a school district. Like everything else, this has been made more challenging by the pandemic. In “normal” times, there was always an understanding of systems and routines by parents and families, due to each of us being a student ourselves at one time. With the onset of the pandemic, most systems had to be continuously reinvented, which means our families also had to undergo countless changes and have not been able to count on the school schedule and calendar. One motivating factor for starting in Comprehensive Distance Learning was to prepare our families and school system for those changes and disruptions.

As other school districts in Oregon have come back to In-Person learning, many have already had to quarantine students. Many of those districts are having a challenging time working out a system to offer instruction to those students. As a district, we knew that we would also face situations that would require students and staff to quarantine. As a result, one of the goals of CDL for the next two weeks is to launch that virtual system, so that when teachers and students need to quarantine, they will have access to a learning platform and stay engaged. This also develops the systems for families who do not yet feel comfortable sending their children back to In-Person learning. Other districts do this by offering a virtual school, but as a small district, we do not have the staffing capacity to do that. As an Administrative team, we knew it would be unpopular delaying and starting in CDL, but it allows our district the tools needed to bring kids back to In-Person and do our very best to keep them there, while making allowance for inevitable disruptions.

As we start to see the COVID 19 positive test percentage and case counts decline in Tillamook County, we will begin to bring students back into the building, for In-Person instruction, very quickly. Yesterday, I learned that the positivity rate declined to 16.5% and 15 positive cases occurred yesterday. This is an encouraging trajectory! While still higher than it has been for all of last year, what this reduction means is that people are beginning to take the steps that must happen to get our kids back in the building, as soon as the week of September 27<sup>th</sup> for 6-12 graders.

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We look forward to welcoming K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and families into the K8 building during the next two weeks, to become familiar with the new building layout and protocols, as well as help orient each student to how they will enter the building and find their classroom. Parents of K-8 grade students please be checking your Parent Vue email for the information needed to RSVP to the K8 meetings.

Lastly, I appreciate everyone's support in your cooperative march in developing and implementing our CDL system, as well as taking all of the needed COVID 19 safety precautions necessary to create a safe learning environment for our kids and community. We will be asking for further help, as the vaccine mandate is creating some challenges in staffing. I will share more information on how families will be able to help with that shortage, next week.

Have a safe weekend! We will see you virtually on Monday with our eye on the prize of In-Person school starting the week of September 27, 2021.

Respectfully,



Misty Wharton