



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

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Human Resources Specialist

November 16, 2020

Nestucca Valley Community,

Since my last letter on November 2, 2020, things have quickly changed in our community and state. This has instituted some changes in our school district and also reinforced the importance of many of the practices that we have been using.

Here is a quick rundown of some of the most pressing issues facing our school community.

COVID CASES IN NVSD- In our school district, we have had three students confirmed positive for COVID 19 in the last two weeks. These students are all in different grades and had students been attending using an in-person model, they would have ridden two different school buses and been in both school buildings. I think it is important for families to understand the implication of a positive confirmed case in a school setting. These three confirmed cases would have forced the school to direct an “at home” quarantine for: three teachers, 60 -80 students and two bus drivers for two weeks, under the current COVID 19 “Ready Schools Safe Learners” handbook. As a district, we would have been practicing all of the safety protocols, which lessen the potential for spread, but I wanted to alert you to how many families would be impacted by a positive case confirmation. This is why containing community spread is so important. You, your family and the district can do everything right, but one positive case confirmed in a school setting can impact 20-40 other people, disrupting the learning for two weeks.

FOOD SERVICE- We are requiring all people accessing our food service program to wear masks to pick up the food. Our staff appreciate you taking this precaution and beginning on Wednesday (November 18th), if masks are not worn by those waiting to pick up the food, the staff will not be dropping food at that site. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this effort.

INTERNET- A tower is being built in Beaver today, and three more up the Nestucca River this week. We have families connected to the tower in Hebo, and a new tower is up in Pacific City. Once again, if you are interested in accessing the internet system that the school district is working with the county to develop, please contact Jamie Carver at jamiec@nestucca.k12.or.us This process has taken much longer than we would have liked it to. Our apologies. Please know that all of the people working on this are doing their best to push this along as quickly as possible.

WEATHER CLOSURES- it appears we may have a wind/flood event tonight and tomorrow. While operating in distance learning model, weather delay and closures will work differently. There will be

no two-hour delay. If the weather is bad, we will still do our best to provide online learning. Families, students and staff will be asked to do the best that they can given the weather conditions. Flexibility is the key. If the weather affects the roads and we are unable to run food service, we will send out an automated message letting you know that, but we can still run distance learning for the day. Simply put, unless the power is out throughout the entire region, education will take place even if there is snow on the ground.

LOOKING AHEAD- As highlighted in the November 2, 2020 letter, our school district is committed to comprehensive distance learning through the second nine week period. While this is no one's preferred method, it will be the most consistent and safe method available through these next two months. I am confident that each of you will do your part to make our return to school as soon as possible by washing your hands, wearing your mask and socially distancing.

I have been issuing fewer of these letters because many of you have shared that you have "letter fatigue". However, I receive phone calls stating I do not communicate enough. Regardless of where you feel our communication is on that pendulum, please know that I am always available to answer question at mistyw@nestucca.k12.or.us or 503 392 3194 Ext 404. As a former teacher, I quickly learned that if one person has questions, many people likely do too, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Stay safe and take care,



Misty Wharton