



## MAPLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 32

10868 East Mapleton Road

Mapleton, OR 97453

(541) 268-4312 Fax 541-268-4632

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Jodi O'Mara, Superintendent

July 2, 2020

Dear Mapleton School District Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe, healthy and enjoying summer with your family and friends.

Since the end of the school year, our staff has been working with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop our school reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The "Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance for School Year 2020-2021" from ODE can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ready%20Schools%20Safe%20Learners%202020-21%20Guidance.pdf>

Currently, there are three instructional models for the 2020-2021 school year that schools can choose from: onsite learning, hybrid learning (a combination of onsite and online learning), comprehensive distance learning. Mapleton School District's draft reopening plan is to provide onsite learning for students in grades PreK-12. A copy of our Draft Plan can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Mapleton%20Operational%20Blueprint%20Final.pdf>

We believe that having students learn in an onsite model is the most appropriate and effective educational setting for our students. With our small class sizes and larger classrooms, we will be able to accommodate the current expectations and guidelines for onsite learning. We recognize that at times throughout the school year, based on the progression of the virus, our students may have to move into short-term online learning with the hopes of returning to onsite learning when it is safe. We also know that some of our students will need to take part in Comprehensive Distance Learning (long-term distant learning) due to health concerns and we are prepared to offer that instructional model as well. *It is important to note that ODE and OHA will be coming out with two additional updates to the guidance for school reopening throughout the summer. Therefore, our plan will need to be updated following the final ODE/OHA update scheduled to come out on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Our final plan is due to ODE and OHA on August 15, 2020.*

Some of the most significant expectations and guidelines that will affect what onsite learning looks like are:

1. **Physical Distancing:** The number of students and staff that can occupy an inside area is based on square footage. *For example, our elementary classrooms have 896' of useable square footage. Per ODE and OHA guidelines, a minimum of 35 sq. ft. must be provided for each person occupying a space. Therefore, each elementary classroom can have a maximum of 25 people in it at one time.* This is to ensure that physical distancing of 6 feet can be maintained, to the maximum extent possible, at all times.
2. **Cohorts:** A cohort is a group of students who stay together for the duration of the school day. *For example: elementary regular classrooms will be considered a cohort (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade). Middle School will be a single cohort. We are still in the process of determining what the High School cohort will look like.*
3. **Masks/face coverings:** Students will not be required to wear masks/face coverings. OHA does not recommend children under the age of 12 wear masks/face coverings. If students elect to wear masks, they will be allowed to. Staff in certain situations will be required to wear masks/face coverings/face shields: food service, transportation, one-on-one educational support (speech/language, small group instruction, etc.), office staff, anyone who cannot maintain 6 feet distance in the course of their job. If staff elects to wear masks/face coverings/face shields, they will be allowed to.

4. **Transportation:** Transportation guidelines require one student per seat on the bus. The only exception is that siblings may share a seat. This will require us adjust our transportation schedule which will directly impact the arrival/start and dismissal/end times for each school.
5. **Screening:** Each student will be visually screened upon entry to school. The visual screening does not include temperature taking. We will follow OHA guidance and our Communicable Disease Management Plan for any students or staff who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

While the guidelines and expectations listed above are only a portion of the ones each school must address in their Operational Blueprint for School Reentry for 2020-2021, they are the most significant ones.

As the updates from ODE and OHA become available, our team of administration and staff will meet to develop the details and schedule that will need to be put in place to ensure we meet the requirements and expectations for onsite learning.

***Please note, that to help us with our implementation of these requirements, ALL preK-12 grade students will be required to attend onsite registration in early August. A letter will be sent out the first week of August detailing the registration schedule and information you need to bring with you.***

Thank you so much for each and every one of you: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc., who became teachers during the last 3 months of school. We appreciate your patience and willingness to help us get your students through the 2019-2020 school year!

Happy Summer!

Jodi O'Mara, Superintendent  
Mapleton School District  
541-268-4471 ext. 202  
[jomara@mapleton.k12.or.us](mailto:jomara@mapleton.k12.or.us)