



## North Lake School District #14

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July 30, 2020

Dear North Lake Parents,

My last communication with you was one month ago, and in that time so very much has changed! It is my goal to keep you informed of the events surrounding the reopening of schools, but to be honest, it seems to change every day, so I was reluctant to distribute information that would likely be obsolete in 48 hours! However, since our Board work session Monday and Governor Brown's press conference on Tuesday, I now have information I wish to share with all of you.

At our Board work session Monday, July 27 we unofficially agreed to move forward with the reopening plan with K-4 students returning on-site every day, and the 5-12 students continuing with the hybrid model (on-site every other day and distance learning on the at home days). This model aligns with the responses received on the parent survey I sent out in late June.

On Tuesday, July 28 Governor Brown announced her new guidance for reopening Oregon schools, which is essentially based on health data from individual counties and the entire state. Based on her data, Lake County schools will not be allowed to resume on-site instruction in the fall UNLESS we can meet her metrics. However, please know that all Lake County administrators, other eastern Oregon school administrators and some local, county and state officials are collaborating to ask ODE and the Governor to consider the unique situation of our rural counties. All of us would like to reopen our schools in the fall, even if it's with face masks, social distancing and alternate schedules. WE WANT OUR STUDENTS IN SCHOOL!

**So, at this time, we are hoping for the best and planning to reopen with the K-4 on-site and the 5-12 hybrid. However, if we are not granted any exception or waiver, and our county metrics are still too high, then we will open with K-12 Comprehensive Distance Learning.**

To enhance our Distance Learning option, we have decided to partner with Lakeview schools and offer the Acellus K-12 online accredited program. This program will be available to all students when schools are not open to on-site instruction, or for those who simply prefer an online option. As enrolled students at North Lake, this option will be available at no cost to you, and will keep ADM funds in our district, which is very important in light of recent reductions in the State School Fund. Visit [acellusacademy.com](https://www.acellusacademy.com) to learn more about this program. Lessons are videos with real teachers, practice sets, and opportunities to proceed at your own pace. Our teachers will be available to support students and perhaps provide additional lessons while using this program.

At the August meeting, the Board also will be asked to approve the newly revised calendar, which we will make available soon. You need to know that September 8, 9, 10 and 11 will be a "soft start" week with parents scheduled to come meet with us and be given information about the expectations, procedures and options for the year. Our goal is to make sure students and parents understand how systems will work, how they can support their student and where to go for help. This will also be the time you can pick up Chromebooks for your students. We are excited about this opportunity to meet

with our parents face to face to explain this very different school year! The first day for students will be Monday, September 14.

Janet Waldron is working on transferring student registration to an online system, and she should have that ready by August 5. Parents of students who were enrolled in our district in June 2020 will be able to use the online registration process or the much shorter student update form. Students who were NOT enrolled in our district in June 2020 need to pick up a paper registration packet from the post offices in Silver Lake, Fort Rock or Christmas Valley or go to our website and print the packet. We hope this makes the registration process more convenient for you. Please register early so that we can order any additional Chromebooks needed in time for students to start on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Students who register late may not receive their Chromebooks until a few weeks after we start.

More information about this fall:

- For a number of reasons related to our reopening plan, we will NOT be offering our 0-3 Mommy and Me, or our Pre-school programs for the 2020-21 school year.
- When we DO return to on-site/hybrid instruction:
  - All students and staff will have to wear masks (unless the guidance changes).
  - All students and staff will wash and sanitize their hands periodically throughout the day.
  - Areas and surfaces will be washed regularly, as well.
  - 6' social distancing will be expected.
  - Students will be visually screened for illness, specifically signs of COVID-19, and sent home if they exhibit symptoms.
  - Parents will be encouraged to keep their students home if they are ill. They will be allowed to make up their work.
  - We will follow all other required health protocols as per ODE guidance.
  - School supplies will be provided for elementary students, thanks to fundraising efforts by the NLCSN! Students will only need to bring PE shoes and a backpack.
- With the revised 2020-21 calendar, there will be no late start Mondays. Buses will run at the regular time Monday through Thursday.

The construction project is progressing quickly, and very nicely! We are on track to finish the Annex before the beginning of school, as well as the carpet in the main building. You will be very pleasantly surprised at the new facilities, and we cannot wait for everyone to be back on campus to use them to their full capacity! We thank the voters for the opportunity to make this lovely school serve the needs of our students both today and well into the future!

As the situation with COVID-19 progresses, I will keep you informed of updates regarding school reopening plans. Know that we all want our students back to school in the fall, and that we are working tirelessly to make that happen. Please watch for updates on the North Lake School website and Facebook page.

Respectfully,

Gail Buermann  
Superintendent