



Oakridge School District 76

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November 9, 2020

To our Students, Staff, Families and Community
From: Oakridge School Board Directors

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for your hardwork and dedication to support our students and their education during this unprecedented time.

To our students, thank you for your perseverance and diligence as you adjust to a new way of learning. We see you. We see you in our community as you are logging into classes. We hear you sharing that you miss your friends, your teachers, athletics, activities, recess, woodshop, and lunch with your friends. We miss those things for you and we miss watching you shine on the fields, court, track, and stage. We miss you so much.

To our staff, thank you for your perseverance, diligence and creativity as you adjust to a new way of teaching and supporting our students. We see you. We see you working so hard every day to make online learning successful, using new computer based curriculum and aligning that curriculum with standards, all the while you are caring for and connecting with our students and their families. To our principals, support staff, and bus drivers. We see you make plans, prepare and adjust plans, prepare and deliver meals, meticulously clean and disinfect our buildings, transport our students, maintain our buildings and grounds, and order the mountain of supplies needed, as we work to ensure the safety and well being of our staff and students. We are thankful for each one of you.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for your endurance, patience and understanding as we navigate this school year together. We see you. We see how hard you work to support your family. We also see how much you love, care, and support your children in their learning. We hear you say this way of teaching our children is tough. It is. We hear you say that you miss sports and activities, coming together as a community for fun and laughter as we celebrate and enjoy the competitions, plays, activities and successes of our children. We miss that too.

To our community, thank you for your stalwart support of our children. We see you. We see you advocating for children who need additional support to make distance learning work, reaching out to support our students and families, we see you opening the library and churches for those who need a place. We see you working with us to expand our internet so our children have more access. We see the creativeness and dedication of our coaches as they adjust and prepare for sports this season. We are grateful for your partnerships.

To all of you, we want to affirm, we are with you. Having our children back in school is a priority for us. We value a full and balanced education for all Oakridge students. We look forward to the return to in person learning that includes career and technology education courses, music, P.E., recess, activities, athletic competitions, plays, field trips, lunch with friends and all of the things that create a quality education and lifetime memories for our children.

Our commitment is to bring our children back to our schools safely and in accordance with all safety protocols outlined by the Oregon Department of Education, The Oregon Health Authority, and Governor Brown. Under Governor Brown's revised metric the return will be sooner than we thought possible, with recent Lane County metrics. Sooner does not mean quicker. The process will be intentional, careful, and focused on safety.

We will work with and support our staff and families as we begin the transition from CDL to more in person instruction over the coming weeks/months. We will monitor the metrics and work to develop processes and procedures that will allow us to do so as safely as possible. We will adjust our learning format as is required to keep everyone safe throughout the year.

We see the challenge and struggle this pandemic has caused for everyone. We see the heroic efforts of our community as you support our children to thrive through it. We are grateful for your partnership with us. We thank you.