



December 9, 2020

Dear students, staff, families and community,

I am sure that some of you were relieved and some of you were frustrated when Governor Inslee [extended restrictions](#) yesterday. Mount Baker is still on par with our phased in plan because we are aligned with all Whatcom County Health Department recommendations. Our elementary hybrid program has been successful without any interruptions to learning due to COVID-19 issues. Our Internet Café is working well to support students with their on-line learning. There will be communication before winter break to families of students who will be invited in to expand on our current Internet Café. Monday we will welcome 25 seniors needing additional support to our Senior Café. This cohort of seniors will be social distanced in the Field House with the support of a teacher four days per week. Our goal is to continue to expand in person services at a slow and steady pace until we are able to bring all of our secondary students back to school with a hybrid learning model next semester. There will be remote learning options for those students who want to continue with full-time on-line learning for the remainder of the school year. Thanks to everyone who is showing support for our students by following health and safety protocols.

Although the extended restrictions do not impact our current academic programs, I did notice that there are many comments and concerns out there on social media about extra-curricular activities including athletics. These activities provide important learning and connections for our students that support their social, emotional, and mental health. I encourage everyone to stay hopeful. From my level and discussions with leaders in the state, I believe that this will be addressed. Yesterday I heard direct statements about the importance of outdoor sports and other activities as important mental health supports for students. Mount Baker will resume off season training as soon as we get the go ahead in January as well as FFA and other extra-curricular programs that are so important in our schools and our community. Please join me in staying positive, supportive, and persistent in the best interest of our students. There are good times to come!

Reverse the Baker Bus needs your help by filling out the [online form](#) for your meals each week in order for us to plan better. Next Wednesday, December 16th students will receive a 10-day food box as this will be the last delivery until January 6th. I would like to thank our Child Nutrition Department as well as our Transportation Department for getting thousands of meals out to students. This has been a great service to our community.

The FFA Food Drive will continue through next Friday, December 18th. Food can be dropped off at the entrance to the MBHS main office. Lots of food has been coming in which demonstrates the care and generosity in this community. Go Baker!

Sincerely,

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