

Nyssa Public Schools

Mission: *A Community Committed to Student Success*

Vision: *All Students Are Thriving Citizens Realizing Their Potential*

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DR. DARREN JOHNSON, Superintendent:
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BRETT JACKMAN, High School
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January 10, 2021

Dear Nyssa School District Students and Parents,

On Monday, January 11, 2021 the Nyssa School District Board of Directors will vote on the option to return K-12 students to school for full day, in-person instruction. If they approve this action, students would return to school in person on January 25, 2021. I invite any of you who are interested, to listen to this school board meeting, which begins tomorrow at 7:00 pm. The general public will not be able to attend in person.

Information on how to listen to the meeting on Zoom is on the school district website:
<https://www.nyssa.k12.or.us/>

As Superintendent, I have arrived at the decision to recommend that students return to school after consultation with Malheur County Health Department and Oregon Department of Education officials. We have carefully considered research, data, local context, and input from staff, students, and community members, and feel that in-person schooling is the best path for our students.

If the board approves a return to in-person schooling, students and staff will be required to wear face coverings, maintain physical distancing, stay home when ill, sanitize their hands frequently, and adhere to additional health and safety protocols.

I recognize that some of our students and families will not feel comfortable returning to school in person due to health concerns. For students in grades 6-12 who choose to not attend in person, we will offer a "Nyssa Online Academy." Because we do not have a satisfactory online option for grades K-5, elementary students who choose to stay home will be able to continue to attend their classes via Zoom.

If the school board approves the return to in-person school tomorrow, the principals at each school will share information with parents and students regarding the return to

in-person instruction with families soon after the meeting. In the meantime, here is an overview of what to expect if in-person schooling is approved:

- For the next two weeks--January 11-22--students are still in Limited In-Person Instruction and have to get their school lunches the same as they have been doing previously.
- Beginning January 25, breakfast and lunch will only be served at the school. If your child chooses to stay at home, they will need to pick up their food each day at the school cafeteria.
- Transportation to and from school will be provided for students beginning January 25. If a family is able to continue transporting their own children, it is highly recommended, as it will decrease the number of students on each bus.
- Limited In-Person Instruction and Zoom classes will continue through Friday, January 22.
- In-person instruction will take the place of Zoom instruction at the Middle School and High School. Because this will affect classes for the next two weeks (January 11-22) until we can return in person, **I advise parents and students who choose not to attend school in person, to plan to attend the Nyssa Online Academy as soon as possible after learning of the School Board's decision tomorrow night.**
 - In the event that a student or group of students in grades 6-12 is required to quarantine, the classroom teacher will facilitate temporary distance learning through Zoom, which is a temporary solution.
- The Elementary School will allow both in-person and Zoom attendance for students who can't attend in person, whether by choice or by quarantine.
- Daily attendance at school is required for all students who choose in-person learning, unless the students are required to quarantine.

It is important to note that if a family chooses to enroll in the online learning academy and requests to return to in-person learning at a later date, there may not be classroom space for the student to return to in-person instruction until a quarter break or the following school year. If you would like to enroll your child in our online learning academy, please contact your child's school as soon as possible.

We know this is a lot of changes in a very short time period, and that it may cause adjustments for you. We are living in very challenging times and appreciate your understanding of the limited timelines available in order to make this happen. Please call each school for help answering questions.

Thank you for your understanding as we look forward to making this transition to in-person learning.

Excited to see you soon!

Darren Johnson

Superintendent