

## Important update to St Paul School District Operations 1-15-21

Getting students safely back to school in-person is a high priority for Oregon and for the St Paul School District. The district is planning for a phased-in return of students to school as soon as possible when public health conditions allow. We will remain in a distance learning model with some students allowed to return for limited in person instruction. Our Kindergarten students returned to school on January 11th following the schedule that was in place prior to the closure in November. On February 3<sup>rd</sup> our Kindergarten will expand to 3 hour sessions AM and PM and our 1<sup>st</sup> graders will start in person instruction on an AM/PM 3-hour session schedule as well. Also on February 3<sup>rd</sup> our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will start in person instruction with school starting at 8:45 and ending at 11:45 Monday thru Thursday. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also start on February 3<sup>rd</sup> as well and their school day will run 8:00-12:30. On February 16th third thru six grade students will begin attending 4 days per week Monday thru Friday from 8:45-11:45. Our final group of students in grades 9-12 will begin school on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the beginning of second semester. This phased in startup will allow the district to maintain the 14 day look back to ensure that our disinfecting and hygiene protocols are keeping everyone safe here at school. All teachers, students, parents and our community want our students back in school and we are working hard to make that happen for our community. .

Under Oregon's advisory requirements for safely reopening schools, Marion County must have fewer than 100 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people in the previous two-week period, and a test positivity rate under 8%, before the district can begin the careful phasing in of on-site learning, starting with the youngest elementary grades. The Oregon Department of education will release updates to the Ready Schools Safe Learners guidance on January 19th. It is my hope that this update will include relaxed metrics that will allow us to bring more students back to school. At this time in order for our district to maintain liability coverage from our insurance carrier we must continue to follow the guidelines listed above that are included in the Ready Schools Safe Learners Guidance. Until those metrics change or are met certain students may return to limited in person instruction and our staff will evaluate and incorporate the return of more students as soon as possible.

Coronavirus case rates in our county currently remain much too high to safely reopen schools under Oregon's requirements and are even higher in the St Paul area. We are looking ahead to the new year, with a clear goal of returning to full time instruction for all students as soon as we are able.

### GENERAL METRICS FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE ON-SITE OR HYBRID MODEL Version 12/4/2020

**WE  
ARE  
HERE**

METRICS & MODELS	ON-SITE	ON-SITE AND DISTANCE LEARNING	TRANSITION	DISTANCE LEARNING	
County Case Rate per 100,000 People Over 14 days	<50.0	50.0 to <100.0	100.0 to ≤200.0	>200.0	

## **Starting School Safely**

St Paul School District is continuing to plan for students returning to school buildings. Until we are ready to return to the in person learning model, groups of students will attend school on-site and online.

Following Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority rules, a return to school must be carefully phased in over time by grade level, starting with the youngest students, followed by older elementary grades, then middle and high schools.

St Paul students will continue learning at a distance with some exceptions including Kindergarten until February 3, 2021 when we will begin the phase in of other grade levels if conditions allow. The phasing in of students to on-site learning will begin with the expansion of kindergarten and grades 1-2 and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

High school students will also be considered for a return to school buildings March 1<sup>st</sup> for grades 9-12, in a modified in person model if public health conditions allow

When learning begins, students enrolled in middle/ high school will participate in a learning pathway that includes on-site instruction Monday thru Thursday.

## **Providing Targeted In-Person Student Supports**

Oregon's public health restrictions allow for schools engaged in distance learning to provide some limited, targeted in-person supports for students on-site. St Paul has been providing on-site support to a small number of students throughout the fall, and will increase to provide limited in-person instruction and support to more students in the new year.

Starting in mid-January, if public health conditions have improved, the district plans to expand in-person instruction to more selected students to meet specific learning and support needs. A limited number of students will be selected based on multiple measures, including access to instruction, academic, and social emotional needs. No student is required to attend on-site.

Friday January 15th, Friday January 22nd and Friday January 29th there will be no student contact for K-6 students; these will be teacher workdays.

Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, and Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, would be teacher work days with no student contact for the district. This time will be used to prepare classrooms and review procedures for in-person instruction.



The district will resume in person instruction as outlined in the schedule below if public health conditions allow

### St. Paul Phased Reopening Plan\* (all subject to change)

	CDL	CDL and LIPI	Modified In Person	Full Time In Person
<p>The Elementary School will operate on a 4 day school week Monday thru Thursday with the exception of Kindergarten which will operate 5 days per week until further notice. Some Limited in Person Instruction may be scheduled for certain qualifying students on Fridays for students in grades 1-6. Friday Schedule, sanitation protocols</p>	<p><b>1/5/2021</b> The district remains in CDL</p>	<p><b>1/11/2021</b> Kinder classes begin AM-PM sessions for 2 hours, bus transportation provided</p>	<p><b>2/3/2021</b> Kinder 3 hour AM/PM sessions begin 1st Grade 3 hour AM/PM sessions begin AM 8:00-11:00 PM 12:00-3:00</p> <p><b>2/3/2021</b> 2nd Grade 8:45-11:45</p> <p><b>2/16/2021</b> 3rd-6th Grades 8:45-11:45 PE/Music PM Online</p>	<p><b>ASAP</b></p>
<p>Middle/High School will operate Monday thru Thursday on an alternating block. Friday will continue as CDL for Advisory and Club participation</p>	<p><b>1/5/2021</b></p>	<p><b>1/11/2021</b></p>	<p><b>2/3/2021</b> 7th - 8th grade 8:00-12:30</p> <p><b>3/1/2021</b> 9th -12th grade 8:00-12:30</p>	<p><b>ASAP</b></p>

CDL	Comprehensive Distance Learning		
LIPI	Limited in person instruction kindergarten 2 hours per day		
Full Time In Person	All Student Return to School		TBD

## Recap of Potential Dates

*Limited in-person instruction:* Supports for Kindergarten and other selected students may start Jan. 11

*grades 1–2:* and 7th/8<sup>th</sup> onsite model may start February 3

*grades 3–6:* onsite model phased in after younger grades February 16.

*Modified schedule for grades 9-12* starts March 1, beginning of semester

\*These dates are potential and may change due to public health conditions.

The district will adhere to daily sanitation protocols as outlined in the Ready Schools safe Learners Guidance and Fridays will be a deep cleaning and sanitation day in our district.

## Thank You

Thank you for your continued engagement and support during this unprecedented school year.

We can all help in the effort to get students back to school on-site by following basic public health practices—including avoiding non-essential social contacts, staying at least 6 feet apart, wearing masks outside the home, washing hands frequently, staying home if we're not feeling well or have been exposed to COVID-19, and cooperating with contact tracing if contacted by public health officials. Thanks to everyone in our community doing your part to reduce the spread.

Our priorities remain the health and safety of our students, staff and families, and our students' academic growth and social emotional wellbeing. Online or on-site, St Paul school district will continue to provide the best education and care we can for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Joseph Wehrli

Superintendent of schools/St Paul