



Waitsburg School District #401 - 100

184 Academy Street, Waitsburg, WA 99361
Phone: 509-337-6301

Mark Pickel – Superintendent/Elem. Principal
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April 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On Monday, April 6, 2020 the Governor and OSPI closed schools in Washington for 2019-2020, with the expectation that educational services would continue for the remainder of the school year. Since this announcement, our staff have been working to develop a course of action to complete the remainder of the school year following OSPI's guidelines.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know what Waitsburg Elementary School is doing to finish the 2019-2020 school year. The main point of this letter is to provide information on:

- Grade Level Completion
 - School Year
 - Delivery
 - Expectations

GRADE LEVEL COMPLETION

Elementary students have completed approximately 3 quarters of the school year and are currently working through their final weeks of the school year to wrap up the 4th quarter. The focus will continue to be in the areas of Reading, Writing and Math; Social Studies, Science, and STEM will provide enrichment opportunities. Classroom teachers will focus on the core subjects and the specialist will provide extension/enrichment in the area of STEM. Please contact your child's teacher for additional enrichment links and/or for ideas.

School Year

With school closure, the school year has been extended to Friday, June 19th. Starting the week of April 27, 2020, learning opportunities will continue in the form of learning packets beyond enrichment for the elementary grades. The second of 4 sets of learning packets will be available for pickup on April 27th in front of the school by the bus pickup/drop off area. The other pickup days are Monday, May 18 and June 8. At the time you are picking up learning packets you may also drop off any previous completed packets.

Delivery Model



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Class is going to look very different and one of the primary challenges is a loss of direct, face-to-face contact between teachers and students. Due to security and privacy issues and ages of students, whole class virtual meetings are not required for direct instruction. However, there may be opportunities provided by your students' teacher for optional meetings via zoom; if used, they will be optional and parent driven, we ask for your assistance with this and presence during meetings. Some teachers are doing video, and/or providing links to help with discussion via Youtube, Screencastify, and google meets to name a few, and other mediums. To help deliver material platforms such as Google Classroom, Class Tag, and Class Dojo, as well as email communication will continue as ways to communicate to students and families.

Expectations

The expectation is that the students do their very best to complete the work. Teachers will be communicating with students on a regular basis and families via phone, email, virtually (Zoom, Google, etc.) to check in as well as help with school work. Any completed student work can/will be collected during the specified dates for pick up, starting with April 27. Teachers may also place assignments in their online platform (Google Classroom, or ClassTag).

Below are the expected daily student time commitments by grade level as per OSPI guidance:

PK – Grade 5	Grades 6 - 8	Grade 9 -12
Pre K: 30 minutes K-1: 45 minutes 2-3: 60 minutes 4-5: 90 minutes	30 minutes per teacher/3 hours maximum per day	30 minutes per teacher/3 hours maximum per day

Time commitments are mindful of the fact that many families have limited internet and one device, which may be shared amongst multiple people.

Thank you for your patience and continued support through these difficult times. Our teachers are here for you, and communication between teachers and parents will be even more important as we continue to deliver a different kind of education to your student. These are truly challenging times for our community, our students and their families.

Please contact your child's teacher or Mr. Pickel at mpickel@waitsburgsd.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Pickel
Elementary Principal