

Ocosta School District Re-Entry Plan

Dear Ocosta Community,

I know everyone is anxious to know the school reopening plan for this fall. I appreciate your patience as we work through the details for our district, considering our facilities, distance between buildings, and transportation needs. School administrators, staff, and school board members have been working together to form a plan that meets state and local requirements for health and safety and for instruction. We are also collaborating with the Grays Harbor Public Health Department and other Grays Harbor school districts through a weekly "reopening schools" workgroup to coordinate our efforts.

While our official plan has not yet been finalized, and while new developments in the pandemic could cause changes, and likely will, I want to share our plan as it stands today. I know families need time to think through their schedules and decide to make things work for everyone in the household. *The plans for Ocosta Elementary students are different than those for Ocosta Junior and Senior High School students.*

We are focusing on these items:

Health & Safety

Personal Wellness

Effective Learning, in a blended model, both in-person and at a distance.

We will be following guidelines and mandates put out by Governor Jay Inslee, OSPI, Washington State Department of Health and Grays Harbor Public Health. As guidelines and mandates change, our instructional plan may change.

Ocosta Elementary

Through careful planning and staff flexibility, we are pleased to announce that **all students in grades Preschool through grade 6 will attend school four days a week, with Friday being the distance learning/teacher outreach and student support day.** Preschool and Kindergarten will be a half-day class, either morning or afternoon. There will be multiple classrooms for each grade in the elementary, to allow for a smaller in a class and allow for social distancing.

A robust online only program will be provided for those families that choose this option. Families will be asked to complete a survey at the beginning of August, so the district can assign teachers to these online classes. For families that need a device to participate in this program, the district will provide a Chromebook.

Face Coverings

All students will be provided with a cloth face mask and a shield to wear at school. Elementary students learn to read aloud and improve language skills, and a shield allows for easier facial movement and allows the teacher to see the student's mouth movement. Students will pick up and put on a clean face mask from a bin as they enter the bus, or as they enter the school building if they are transported to school by a parent. The shields will be disinfected overnight. Students will put on their cloth face masks for most of the day. When students are in their seats and working with the teacher, they will be able to wear their face shields. As students leave the bus, they will place their used cloth mask in a bin at the door; masks will be laundered overnight. If a parent picks up their student, the mask will be left in a bin by the school front door. School-provided face masks and shields will not go home with the student.

There are many styles of face coverings, so families may choose to provide their own face coverings (masks, or gaiters) for their students, but those items will go home for the family to wash and disinfect. It will be very important that students remember to bring and wear their face coverings every day. Disposable masks will be available if needed on a short-term basis.

Daily Health Checks

Temperatures will be taken, and a short health screening will be given to all staff and students as they enter the building daily. If symptoms of COVID-19 are noted, the student will be quarantined in a separate room until parents can be contacted to pick up their student. The district is currently looking for an app that parents can use daily to attest that their child is symptom free.

Social Distancing

Schedules have been created to enhance social distancing. Some classes may need to eat lunch in the classroom, while others will eat in the cafeteria. Recesses have been spaced through the day with smaller numbers of students on the playground at one time; their area to roam will also be limited to their own group due to social distancing.

Food Service

Meals will be plated up for students. Meals (bagged breakfast and lunch) will be provided for the non-school days for all students who request it.

Drinking Water

Drinking fountains must be turned off, but bottle filling stations may be used. **Families will need to provide water bottles.** The bottles should be labelled with a student's name. Water bottles will be sent home at the end of the day for washing.

Safety, Cleaning, Social Distancing

Students will be staying mostly in their own classrooms throughout the day. Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash hands frequently throughout the day. Teachers will arrange rooms to provide social distancing, and schedules have been created to allow distancing at lunch and break times. Increased cleaning and disinfecting will happen routinely at school daily, and especially on the day when there are no students in the buildings.

Transportation

Buses will transport students with as much social distancing as possible. Students will be required to wear a face covering while on the bus. Parents are encouraged to drive their students to school if possible. Parent-provided transportation may help reduce number of students on the bus.

Ocosta Junior & High School

Instructional Plan

Ocosta Junior & Senior High School (Grades 7-12) will run on an A Day/B Day schedule during regular school hours, 8:20 to 2:50PM. Students have been divided into A and B groups by families, so all students in the same family will attend school on the same days. Overall, we will have students in the building four days per week, with **Fridays being a distance learning.** This means any individual student will receive two days of face-to-face instruction, and three days of distance learning, where they will be required to attend classes virtually. Google Classroom will be the common platform for online instruction.

BYU High School Suite will be available for students that will not be attending classes in person. This is a highly rigorous program. Families that select this choice will need to commit for a minimum of one semester (September through the end of January). Students will be assigned 3 classes per quarter in this system and will have access to an online tutoring program if they need assistance. Due to the nature of this program, students can not go between programs, without loss of credit.

Please note: Students will have work to be completed every day, as every day in the week is a learning day in this blended model-- two days per week students will have in-person learning to allow teachers to present new material. Three days per week students will have learning at a distance using a Chromebook. Regular grading will ensue, so students will be held accountable for their engagement in all their classes. Students will be required to complete all assignments and engage each day. Chromebooks will be provided for students that do not have an adequate device for all requirements.

Face Coverings

All students and staff will always be required to wear a cloth mask (or gaiter). ***The district will provide a facemask, however students may provide their own, as long as it is school appropriate.*** No student or staff member will be allowed on a bus or to enter a building without a face covering.

Daily Health Checks

Temperatures will be taken, and a short health screening will be given to all staff and students as they enter the building daily. If symptoms of COVID-19 are noted, the student will be quarantined in a separate room until parents can be contacted to transport the student home.

Food Service

Meals will be plated up for students. Meals (bagged breakfast and lunch) will be provided for the non-school days for all students who request it.

Safety, Cleaning, Social Distancing

Students will be moving from room to room to change classes, but they will be asked to wipe down their own desk and chair before departing the room. Staff will also help to disinfect the room between groups. Students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wash hands frequently throughout the day. Teachers will arrange rooms to provide social distancing, and schedules have been created to allow distancing at lunch and break times. Increased cleaning and disinfecting will happen routinely at school daily, and especially on the day when there are no students in the building.

Drinking Water

Drinking fountains must be turned off, but bottle filling stations may be used. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.

Transportation

Buses will transport students with as much social distancing as possible. Parents are encouraged to drive their students or to allow students to drive themselves to school if possible.

For Parents Who are Uncertain of Their Plans

We realize that some parents may not feel ready to send their children back to school in the fall. We would welcome a phone call or visit to answer parent questions or concerns completely.

If parents choose not to send their children to our face-to-face school program, we can offer a distance learning school model. We want to support students and families as much as possible. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions.

Thank you!

Finally, thank you for your continued patience. Our school district has never had to plan for a school year like this or to face the impacts of our nation's pandemic. Our staff are all working together to develop the best school model that meets the needs of our students, protects the health and safety of everyone in our buildings, and continues to deliver effective learning. I am very thankful for the flexibility and creativity of our staff to make a program like this work for Ocosta students.

Please feel free to contact me directly for any questions, ideas, or concerns, at hsweet@ocosta.org or call me at 360-268-9125 ext. 1002.

The district will host a parent ZOOM session on August 5, at 6:30PM to share a more detailed plan and to answer family's questions.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97228905130?pwd=VEtwY2JoL0JmVDRvQmINajJuQjJWdz09> ‘

Meeting ID: 972 2890 5130

Passcode: 750691

One tap mobile [+12532158782](tel:+12532158782),
97228905130# US (Tacoma)

Thank you,

Heather Sweet
Superintendent