

# OCOSTA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TOGETHER  
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July 31, 2020

Dear Ocosta Families and South Beach Community,

The Ocosta School District believes that the health and safety of our students, staff, and community is the highest priority. On July 30, 2020, the Ocosta School Board held a meeting. At this meeting, they decided that the safest way to start the school year will be a virtual platform. This is not an easy decision, and we know that this will impact our families.

There were a variety of factors that led the district to make this decision. Earlier in the week, I attended a meeting with the Grays Harbor Public Health Officer, Dr. Bauscher. At this meeting, Dr. Bauscher was unable to give a clear directive that it would be safe to resume classes in person and said he was “guarded about opening.” In addition, there was no clear answer from the health department regarding the availability of testing and the time in which results for COVID-19 testing can be complete.

The Ocosta Team is committed to providing an exceptional education to the students on the South Beach. Today, I met with our teacher re-entry committee to move forward with our teaching plans. There were some concerns about the level of education students received in the spring. Be aware that this was “crisis” teaching during a pandemic. Our teachers are currently enrolled in professional development for teaching in a virtual setting. You can be confident that students will have the highest quality education during this virtual learning.

Each student will be supplied with a Chromebook to access their learning. Following the guidelines from OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), students will be required to attend online each day for attendance purposes and complete assignments and assessments. The grading system for classes will return to the typical model with students in kindergarten through fifth grade having a standards-based grading policy of 1-4 and the sixth through twelfth grade having an A-D, F grading policy.

More details will be available on August 5 at our parent zoom meeting and then again on August 14.

You will need to install Zoom onto your device and then login with this link:

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

We intend to have plans to phase in returning to school in-person. We anticipate that we will continue an online program for students throughout the pandemic if families choose this option. The school district will update families every two weeks through the school year as we can move to a more in-person learning experience. We do know that there are student groups, such as those enrolled in special programs, that will begin to attend school in-person on a limited basis, based on their plan.

Sincerely,

Heather Sweet, Superintendent