



*Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts*

**Morton School District #214**  
**Home of the Timberwolves!**

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### Public Service Announcement

Date: August 3rd, 2020

RE: 2020/21 School Year Following Lewis County Public Health Recommendation

To: Students and Families

Today the Lewis County Public Health Officer released a recommendation about the modality for starting the 2020/21 school year for all schools in our county. The recommendation, based on current statistical trends, has all schools beginning the year in an online format only. The recommendation does allow for some in-person activities to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and for other circumstances where in-person activities are necessary to meet state or federal requirements. A copy of the letter we received by the district can be found [here](#).

The district is currently working to finalize our plans in response to this announcement and is close to being done as we have been preparing for this situation should it occur. Some of our recent actions are the following:

- The district has purchased computers for every student and will be providing them to students. This is referred to as a 1-to-1 model. The district's intent is to remain as a 1-to-1 district throughout the pandemic and following it.
- We understand that some of our families do not have access to WiFi. To assist in this situation we have been able to acquire a limited number of devices through T-Mobile to assist students with access. The devices will only work with district computers which will be distributed through our 1-to-1 model.
- Online learning does have challenges that will be new for our students, however, our staff is committed to providing the best possible education for our students. Here are some things to note for our online process:
  - **Attendance** - Students will need to attend their online classes, participate, and engage in the learning process in order to be in attendance. At the start of the school year, staff will communicate with their students on these expectations.
  - **Grades** - Last spring grades were restricted from the state level as we were in a 'reactionary' mode based on the sudden school closure. As we begin the upcoming school year this will be very different as we will revert back to our typical grading system utilized in both buildings.
  - **Learning Management System** - To help students and staff manage online learning the district has purchased an online program, Canvas, to assist. This program will be the portal in which students interact with staff, complete assignments, take assessments, and a variety of other tasks and experiences.

*The Morton School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator/ADA Coordinator/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator and Superintendent John Hannah, 152 Westlake Avenue, Morton, WA, 98356, 360-496-5300, [jhannah@morton.k12.wa.us](mailto:jhannah@morton.k12.wa.us), or Section 504 Coordinator Becky Brooks, 152 Westlake Avenue, Morton, WA, 98356, 360-496-5137, [bbrooks@morton.k12.wa.us](mailto:bbrooks@morton.k12.wa.us).*

The district will continue to work with our county and state officials as we prepare for and begin the school year. As changes or new directives come up we will communicate with all stakeholders. Our goal is to return to school in a traditional format as soon as we can when it is safe. Until that does occur we will be using the resources available to the district and following the guidance and recommendations we get from our county and state agencies.