



KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 10, 2020

Kelso Staff Members, Parents/Caregivers, and Students,

First of all, I want to start this letter by thanking the Kelso community for their patience and flexibility over the past six months. Secondly, even though it is my sincere desire that our district fully open for in-person instruction this fall, to go against the published guidance from the Department of Health (per Dr. Krager's letter dated July 31, 2020 – letter attached) would put our district in a potential "open-close-open-close" scenario. The added stress of going back and forth and managing the logistics of that is something I do not want our Kelso families, students, and staff to go through. **At this time, it would be negligent on the part of Kelso School District to proceed against the guidance of Department of Health. At the soonest availability, I will be looking for return to an in-person instructional model. This is my commitment to the families, staff, and students of Kelso.**

This evening our Kelso School Board, on the recommendation of our Reopening Task Force, approved the reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year, which includes two options for families:

Option 1: Continuous 2.0 remote learning – This option is for families who prefer to transition to in-person when it is safe to do so.

- This option will be led by KSD teachers and allows your student to return to in-person instruction when it is available.
- This option allows your student to keep their same content teachers from their neighborhood school.
- ***If you are confident you want your child to return to in-person learning when it becomes available, this is the best choice for you.***

Option 2: Kelso Virtual Academy (KVA) – This option is for families who want to stay virtual for the remainder of the school year or grading period (semester or trimester).

- This option is led by KSD teachers and allows your student to keep their one virtual learning teacher throughout the school year or grading period.
- This option signals your intent to remain virtual for the school year or grading period, but allows for flexibility to attend school in-person if you would like to when it becomes available.
- ***If you would like to remain virtual for the school year or if you are unsure if you would like to transition to in-person learning, this is the best choice for you.***

To better understand the similarities and differences between Continuous 2.0 instruction and KVA, a comparison sheet is attached. Frequently asked questions about KVA can be found at bit.ly/kva-faq.

We encourage families to make the choice that is best for them. KSD will continue to provide high quality educational experiences for all of our students, no matter which pathway you choose. We will work together with the ultimate goal of providing opportunities for every student to learn and grow, from kindergarten through high school, and we will remain flexible to support the decisions that are best for your family as the school year continues.

Our new and robust remote Continuous 2.0 curriculum is an upgraded model led by KSD teachers. Kelso's remote instruction is now accessible on a single platform that will be available this fall. Our individualized approach with tailored instruction features:

- Daily schedules (sample schedules attached, specific schedules will be sent by your school)
- Daily teacher-led instruction
- Additional time for students needing support or extension
- KSD teachers trained in virtual instruction

To deliver this new robust remote learning experience, staff will receive seven targeted professional development days to support them in their delivery of the new remote model and platform prior to the start of school. Additionally, every K-12 student will receive a Chromebook regardless of which option they have selected. We are also providing additional targeted training to elementary students and parents on how to use their Chromebook and access Google Classroom in what would normally be the first week of school. In order to make this happen, we have adjusted our school calendar. Key adjusted dates are as follows and **2020-21 school calendar is attached**:

- September 8: First remote day for all secondary students
- September 8 – 11: Elementary parent/student conference days (pick up Chromebook, Google Classroom training)
- September 11: First remote day for all elementary students

Many more details will be forthcoming. Please watch your email and/or the district website for further communication. The full Roadmap to Reopening is posted at bit.ly/ksd-fall2020.

I know this plan brings many challenges and hardships to our Kelso families, specifically in the areas of child care and internet access. Attached are some resources that specifically address those two areas.

I truly thank you for your partnership in navigating these challenging times. We are excited to welcome students back to virtual school on September 8 and 11.

We are ready to move forward together!

Onward,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
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