

**OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Instructional Technology Terms:

Synchronous - At the same time

Asynchronous - Not at the same time

Hybrid - Combined face-to-face and online instruction

Comprehensive Distance Learning- Learning from home through Acellus and teacher contacts

Q: Distance learning did not go well. How can you assure me it will go better?

A: We are continuing professional development with our staff to support online and hybrid school. Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) allows for Synchronous and Asynchronous learning opportunities with daily check ins for attendance, grades and school work feedback; Staff members will be dedicated to monitoring and supporting students.

Q: How will every child/ adult be safe when in school?

A: This is the highest priority for the district. We are working closely with the County Health Department, to ensure that our protocols for re-opening address necessary health and safety measures. Time will be spent training staff and students will be given instruction on new building rules and procedures to promote this. Procedures are in place for disinfecting and cleaning playgrounds, classrooms and schools throughout the day. PPE will be provided and utilized by staff and students.

Q: How will school organize so that we limit the risk of exposure to our children?

A: One of the requirements for reopening is keeping the students in cohorts or groups that buildings are able to track their contact with other students and staff. Students will be assigned zones, walking routes and there will also be stricter rules about not coming to school sick. We will follow our communicable disease plan and implement all practices highlighted by our public health protocols. See Key Practices For Reducing Spread of COVID: [HERE](#)

KEY PRACTICES FOR REDUCING SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS
The mainstays of reducing exposure to the coronavirus and other respiratory pathogens are:

-  **Physical Distancing** — At least six feet with other people.
-  **Hand Hygiene** — Frequent washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.
-  **Cohorts** — Conducting all activities in small groups that remain together over time with minimal mixing of groups.
-  **Protective Equipment** — Use of face shields, face coverings, and barriers.
-  **Isolation & Quarantine** — Isolation separates sick people from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.
-  **Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection** — Especially of high-touch surfaces.
-  **Airflow & Ventilation** — Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities; maximize airflow in closed spaces.

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2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: If we have to do distance learning again, What are my options?

A: Families concerned about distance learning are encouraged to visit with us about our online learning program. We are able to support your child in the online format all year. We are also able to offer a hybrid program that blends traditional homeschool with the support of our online learning platform, Acellus. For more information please contact your building principal.

Q: You need to put students back in the classrooms one way or another, how will you do that?

A: Following our blueprint model for each school, utilizing our state and county metric and following any other state guidelines/executive orders. Our goal is to be able to have each student back into their school building each day when metrics allow.

Q: How will staff monitor hallways during transition time and keep kids 6 feet apart?

A: Each building has a plan that addresses this issue as best as possible. There will be signs, markers, routes, spacing stickers, etc. Significant time will be spent teaching and supporting established health and safety protocols.

Q: What are the requirements for facemasks?

A: Masks or face shields will be required for all students in grades kindergarten and up, along with all staff. We will follow the guidance from the state in order to allow students in the schools.

Q: How many students will be allowed per classroom?

A: The number of students allowed in a classroom is dependent on the size of the room. This will vary in each building depending on the room. One person for every 35 square feet is the existing rule.

Q: I would like my child to return to school in as much of a normal environment as possible. I feel this has really put a mental strain on her. What can I expect as resources for her?

A: For families with mental health concerns we encourage them to reach out to their local school counselor as well as the teacher and administrator that work with the students to help them understand the need and concern. We have HOOTS staff available to support High School students and their family;

Q: Will PE, music, library and art and CTE courses be offered?

A: Each building has a plan that will allow students access to libraries and other electives such as PE, music, art, and CTE.

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2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: It is important to train the students how to stay safe at school like washing their hands and being careful about close contact with others and being aware of touching door knobs and washing hands often.

A: Our schools will implement additional cleaning protocols in place throughout the day to help reduce the spread of germs. This will be in addition to ongoing education on handwashing, and staying home when sick. We will follow guidelines from our Key Practices For Reducing Spread of COVID:<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Key%20Practices%20for%20Reducing%20Spread%20of%20COVID-19%20in%20Schools.pdf>

Q: How will the district communicate with parents about updates and changes this year?

A: We will continue to use Facebook and our district website; We have now transitioned to a new website and district phone call broadcast system that also has an OSD app that parents and staff can download. This system is called thrill share and it will better connect, communicate, and alert families with messages from the district and our schools. If the district sends a message out to the public related to closures, shut downs, operations.

We are working on our schools websites in thrillshare so they can also share the updated information on their websites. You can download the District app on Google Play and in the Apple Store. It is the icon with the outline of a mountain.

Q: If the children have to take classes online, Will the district be able to train more parents to support their children to learn and collaborate with their teachers? We must be in that together and collaborate better.

A: During the staggered start from September 8-17 teachers will meet virtually with students and parents to train them in using the online tools and Acellus learning platform for instruction. In addition, please contact your teacher, building administration or our COVID technology help desk if you are having difficulty with online services.

COVID Help Desk Number **541-782**

Q: My child will be in first grade. He and many other first graders do not wash their hands regularly, what will be your procedures for washing hands?

A: Hand washing will be an emphasis in all schools prior to meals as well as with the use of the restroom. Hand sanitizer will also be available throughout the buildings and in each classroom. Students will wash their hands and their desks will be sanitized daily. We will also utilize an electrostatic sprayer weekly in each classroom that will deeply disinfect all surfaces it touches for up to 7 days.

Q: Just thinking if it is going to be like a very formal military type setting for my kids to return to school, they will not. I won't put my kids through that.

A: While the procedures and routines will look different in the schools, the administration and staff at each school will be working hard to maintain a "school-like" atmosphere that will promote learning and meeting the social emotional needs of students. Relationships, connections, learning and support of one another will be a long-term benefit for all.

**OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: When a student is struggling how will teachers communicate with the parent?

A: We will continue to encourage our teachers to reach out to parents through email and phone conversations regarding student progress. Parents are always welcome to email their child's teacher and principal as well. We can schedule a virtual meeting as appropriate and we will also contact the family on our end if the student is not experiencing success. We also have a parent portal Student information system that can be utilized to check grades.

Q: If upon returning to school we have a staff member or student that tests positive, what will happen? Will the district send home only the student or the other students as well?

A: We will work with the Lane County Health Department and OHA to ensure the safety of our staff and students. We will utilize our communicable disease plan, follow our communicable disease policies and administrative regulations, we will also communicate as necessary when classrooms or buildings need to move to distance learning so that we can deeply clean and sanitize, support contact tracing if there are numerous occurrences and support staff and students that may need to quarantine.

Q: We have a lot of concerns, not sure how to express them.

A: Please feel free to reach out to your building principal or the district office as questions come up.

Q: My main concern is that the district is prepared in the event that we need to return to online school and that teachers are held accountable for their attendance and participation as an educator. Our experience last spring was less than satisfactory.

A: The expectations for teachers and students with online learning will be different this school year. Everyone will have to follow state rules for CDL. Classes will have lessons, videos, assessments, and materials delivered in a synchronous and asynchronous manner. We will give grades, feedback, monitor, and take attendance. Students and parents are always welcome to reach out to their principal with concerns.

**OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: Is the intention that the district will have the students in buildings full-time each day, or will it be a hybrid? Will my child move from class to class with multiple students?

A: As soon as allowable, utilizing our State and County Metric and staying in support of our blueprints submitted as it relates to Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL). Our goal is to be able to have each student back into their school building each day. To begin with, movement that will be more restricted to one primary classroom per week; However, students will have access to all their teachers throughout the week for virtual support and eventually in person at least every 3-4 weeks as allowed by our community and state health and in the event of no outbreak.

Q: Transparency on safety plans for return, including PPE requirements for students and staff, as well as notification when there is a positive case in the school is necessary. What are your plans?

A: Currently we are planning for CDL and then a return to school in person based on the county exceptions listed in the State and County metrics. We will eventually return to all students on site once it is deemed safe by our state and County with the input of County Health Administrators and advisors. Our building Ready Schools Safe Learners (RSSL) reopening plans include processes for addressing student illness and communication to families regarding any outbreaks. These plans are approved by the County Health Department and School Board and are posted on our district website. When we meet County Health Metric guidelines, we will return at least all K-3 students that wish to be in school as well as others in a limited capacity after the staggered start weeks. You will receive updates from the school district on a weekly basis starting in mid September concerning state and country metrics.

Q: Students are often not sent home when sick, especially if a parent won't come. They are then sent back to class. What is your plan for sick students?

A: Every effort will be made to send a student home when they arrive or become sick at school. If we are unable to reach parents the student will remain in a sick room separate from the rest of the school population until they can be picked up or taken home. It will be important for every family to make sure they have their emergency contacts updated for events like this. If your child is sick or has any symptoms similar to the flu or COVID; they need to stay home.

Q: Will technology be available again for distance learning if needed?

A: Yes, Please contact your administration or our COVID help desk. We have hot spots and tech devices to support needs and address WiFi solutions that will hopefully help families. The district will work with families to support their needs. We have limited ability of HotSpots..

Q: I am concerned about how my students' IEP will be followed if distance education will resume while I am working and not home to help my student.

A: The school staff will work with each family to address individual concerns and needs. It would be our goal to still be able to have students meet with their teachers in small groups or one on one settings for instructional support if possible. We will seek to follow all provisions of the IEP as is reasonable in an online environment if we cannot yet meet in person. If necessary we will find a way to support in comprehensive distance learning or through our Virtual Online school. If you have additional questions you can reach out to your building principal or the Director of Student Services, Dr. Chad Harrison at **541-782-** or email charrison@ohswarriors.net

**OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: What will online school look like, will it be the same as last spring?

A: If students have to do online work again for even short periods of time the expectations for communication and support will be different than what was experienced in the spring. There will be common class times for synchronous learning as well as recordings of the class. There will also be attendance taken, grades, feedback and extensive monitoring.

Q: Are social distancing and 6 feet requirements going to be maintained when children are in lines or learning environments?

A: Yes, buildings will be using a variety of signs on walls, stickers on floors, specific routes and zones to help remind everyone of appropriate spacing. We will follow state guidelines.

Q: I have a senior who only needs five credits. It seems to me that it would be a good idea for him to only go to school for those classes he needs the credit in and then come home if you have to go to the school.

A: Seniors that have limited credits left for graduation are able to visit with their counselor about an abbreviated school schedule.

Q: Will there be recess?

A: Yes, there will be recess time. Need to follow social distance rules and follow designated safety protocols.

Q: Should sick kids and staff stay home even with light symptoms?

A: Yes, follow CDC and OHA guidelines as appropriate. Students and staff need to stay home when ill / or have symptoms until tested or at least for 48 hours after recovering from all symptoms.

Q: How will things be handled for children with immune deficiencies? If we don't feel safe sending a special needs student to school will there be support for them doing stuff at home or online?

A: The special education staff in each building will be visiting with their families to determine the best plan for their student as school starts. If the plan is for the student to work online there will be support from the school.

Q: At my address we do not have good internet access and there is no cell service, therefore, online school is not a good option for my children.

A: For families with limited or no access to WiFi, Our district will do all we can to ensure you get a device and a hot spot in your home. It is our plan to identify students who can not gain access and bring them in under Limited In Person Instruction guidelines when able.

Q: How will we know if there are any issues with COVID or other viruses in the schools?

A: We will be working with the County Health Department on contact tracing and communication to families regarding any possible exposures following HIPPA and FERPA regulations.

Q: Does the district have a plan for COVID testing for students and staff?

A: At this time the district is unable to test staff or students. Visual screening of students as they enter the buildings and classrooms each morning and as well as tracking their moves as a cohort and keeping contact tracing logs is our best plan.

**OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021 SCHOOL YEAR
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: What about the lunchroom? How will that work?

A: Each building is developing a plan for breakfast and lunch based on the age of their students and the size of the building. Students will eat with their stable cohort and can expect to eat breakfast in their classrooms. Most students will also have lunch in their classrooms or an assigned area due to staffing schedules and necessary breaks. High school students will have a closed campus for lunch and will also have assigned zones and locations to each with their stable cohort. If we are in CDL: We will have packaged lunch meals available. Distribution details to be determined.

Q: What measures will the bus drivers have to take in order to transport kids to and from school?

A: Bus drivers will wear masks or face shields. As students board the bus they will do a visual screen of the student. Each bus will have a designated area for students that may be ill so that school staff are immediately able to bring them into the building and contact family. We will have an isolation room where we will isolate students, we will contact the family as immediately as possible.

Q: Can they do temperature/health checks each morning?

A: Currently schools will be doing universal temperature checks including temperature checks. Staff will be doing visual screens of students. Based on visual screenings of students or staff exhibiting or displaying symptoms we will follow health and safety protocols as appropriate.

Q: With everything going back to online will we be able to check out as many chromebooks as we have students in our family?

A: It is OSD's intention to provide a chromebook to every student who needs a device to access digital curriculum and communicate with their teacher, even if that means providing multiple devices to a family. Separate paperwork will be needed for each device.