



HARRISBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Darlene M. Geddes Principal
Bryan Starr Superintendent

September 14, 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back! What a start to the year we have had. Our thoughts are with all of our families and community members who have been impacted by the fires throughout Oregon. Many of us have been hit hard by this natural disaster but we are uplifted by all those who have reached out to offer a helping hand during this time of need. Please let us know if you have any needs and we will do our best to connect you with one of our many community resources.

We are excited to say that our metrics in the area have been good and we will be allowed to begin in person instruction for our kindergarten through 3rd grade students this month. We are so thankful for the patience of our families during an exceptionally frustrating time. We are grateful and excited that our metrics allow us to move forward and bring more of our students back and for longer periods of time.

Effective Monday, September 21st, we will expand our school day to Kindergarten through Second Grade on-site and at in-school daily. Enclosed you will also find a paper copy of our daily calendar to refer to.

Kindergarten AM 8:15 - 11:00
Kindergarten PM 11:50 - 2:35
1st and 2nd Grade 8:15 - 2:35

On Monday, September 28, we will welcome our Third Grade students, 8:15 am - 2:35pm. Transportation on busses is provided for students living 2 miles or further beyond the school.

Students will receive breakfast served in the classroom at 8:15 and Lunch served in the classroom between 10:45 and 11:30. Breakfast and Lunch are free of charge through December. However, we are asking all families to fill out the free/reduced lunch application as these numbers help us keep qualified as a Title 1 school and provides our school critical resources.

All students must wear a mask or face shield at all times on school ground (inside and outside of the school). Students must wear their mask or face shield during recess and PE. We do have mask break areas throughout the school in their classroom, outside, and in their specials.

At this time, all fourth grade students and above are mandated by the state to engage in the distance learning model. With this in mind, we have specifically selected a team of teachers who has previous experience with your students as well as experience in the upper elementary grades. Meredith Grassman, Kinsey Jones and Erin Newman are familiar faces and names to you! These well-equipped and experienced teachers will continue to support and guide your children through whichever models of learning the year holds: Distance Learning, Hybrid Learning, and/or In-Person Learning. The established relationships with your children along with the experience working with students in the upper elementary grades were large factors in the consideration of placing these teachers in this position. We feel strongly that with the unique challenges distance learning holds for our students that the foundation of a prior positive relationship between teacher, student, and family was critical. All of these teachers are excited and already 'on the mission' of making distance learning a success for you and your child.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to ask your student's teacher or feel free to call or email me. While we are still working out some of the logistics, the puzzle is definitely coming together and we are excited to have children back in the building.

Thank you, all, for your many emails of support and encouragement.

Wishing you all well,

Darlene M. Geddes, Principal

Harrisburg Elementary School K-4