



July 20, 2020

Dear Eatonville Community,

As we continue to make plans for the successful start of the 2020-21 academic year, I want to share with you some important updates about our preparations, and to give you more details about what students and employees can expect in September. As we turn our attention to the fall semester, I encourage you to periodically visit our website where you can find timely updates and more information about our plans.

First and foremost, I want to assure you that your health and safety are chief among our priorities. We are weighing those important commitments along with our strong belief that our students are best served by face-to-face daily education, and all of our students will greatly benefit from as many in-person instructional and co-curricular experiences as possible. Eatonville is working closely with local and state public health agencies to ensure that our plans fit within their models of best practice regarding COVID-19.

I also recognize that some of you continue to feel anxious about returning to in-person school activities. I understand those concerns, and an important part of our approach, in addition to adhering to the best public health practices, is to give our families as much flexibility as possible so you can make the best decisions for your own health and safety.

It is also understandable that many of you want concrete answers to many of your questions right now in late July. Our goal is to provide those answers as soon as we are confident that we've determined the best way forward and after our plans have been fully vetted. I am confident that the seven weeks that remain before fall classes begin will provide those answers, and I'm also grateful for the tremendous progress we've already made. We will continue to communicate frequently over the summer to give you the latest updates.

Here is a summary of our current status:

GENERAL POLICIES

Daily self-attestation of health status:

Each day, all students and employees will be asked to certify that they are not symptomatic, not running a fever, and have had no known contact with anyone testing positive for COVID-19. Individuals who cannot answer affirmatively to all of these questions will be asked to stay home from school or work. In schools students and employees will have their temperatures taken using touchless medical-grade thermometers.

Physical distancing:

The ability to maintain safe physical distancing in most settings is a critical component of limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Physical distancing policies will be in place across schools and in most contexts. These expectations will apply to all office spaces, in-person classes, official activities and events, and meetings. Room and venue occupancy limits are being adjusted accordingly.

Nose and mouth coverings (face masks):

Face masks will be required in all settings, including classrooms, offices and indoor activities. Reasonable exceptions to this requirement will include many outdoor settings when there is an ability to physically distance from others, certain approved WIAA athletic practices and competitions, and when employees are alone in their private offices. Masking is required as per the [OSPI Guidelines](#), the Department of Labor and Industries and the [Washington State Department of Health](#).

Cleaning:

The District is planning on enhanced cleaning protocols, particularly in high-traffic and shared areas such as classrooms, labs, restrooms, and the cafeterias. In some settings, students and employees will be asked to use provided supplies to clean their work areas, classroom desks or computer stations before departing.

Testing and Contact tracing:

OSPI (bit.ly/3dXrjWD) and [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#) Guidelines as they come out will be adhered to as per the requirements for schools.

Isolation and quarantine spaces:

Currently, symptomatic/infected persons are expected to isolate in accordance with public health guidance. The quarantine period for uninfected persons is 14 days from their last date of exposure or cleared from the doctor.

Instruction:

Our faculty have committed to maximizing in-person instruction this fall by using the innovative CORE 4 and Google Classroom approach, which emphasizes strategies for in-person, hybrid and flexible course designs. This approach will allow students to engage with class activities and assignments no matter their individual circumstances. The specific implications of this approach will depend upon class size, a teacher's ability to be in the classroom, and other particular needs of the class. Other details include:

- Students who for health reasons need to access all of their course content online will be able to do so.
- Our plans will be finalized upon ESD School Board approval and submitted to OSPI and State Board of Education for final review. We intend to publish our models by August 4, 2020.
- Decisions are still being made concerning more specialized instructional areas.
- Should the public health situation deteriorate in the fall such that all in-person classes are suspended for a period of time, teachers will be prepared to deliver course content exclusively online.

Athletics:

The WIAA ([WIAA News](#)) and OSPI are currently working on plans to resume competitive athletics this fall. Summer practices have resumed and have been successful so far with all

measures in place for safety. Coaches will be in touch with their players regarding specific details and schedules for the school year. As mentioned, because competitive athletics will, in most cases, reduce the ability to physically distance and mask, increased precautions may be necessary.

In closing, although the fall semester will look and feel different, I'm eager to welcome you to school so that you can continue your education in Eatonville Schools. Being a community again will enliven the community spirit that we know and love. I will continue to communicate this summer as more details come together. When our plans are approved by the Eatonville School District Board, we will send them to all families. In the meantime, be well and enjoy your summer. Go Eatonville Strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krestin Bahr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Krestin Bahr
Superintendent, Eatonville School District