



# Philomath Public Schools

Benton County School District 17J, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

Good Evening, Students and Families of the Philomath School District:

As some of you heard at the School Board meeting last night, the District has to shift gears regarding our hope to return our Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to be at school in the **Hybrid Learning** model at this time. While ready to begin under the allowable exception for students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades, the Oregon and Benton County metrics, listed in the **Ready Schools, Safe Learners** guidance eliminated this as an option.

Week	State Test Positivity	County Cases/ 100K	County Test Positivity	Available Options
09/13/2020	6.2%	36.0	6.6%	CDL Only
09/06/2020	5.6%	20.1	2.8%	K-3 Only
08/30/2020	4.3%	12.7	2.5%	K-3 Only

As you can see, our numbers blossomed over this past week. We are highly disappointed to not be inviting these students back into our schools just yet. As a result, all schools and grade levels will be remaining in **Comprehensive Distance Learning** at this time. We will review information for possible learning model changes to be implemented on the following dates:

- K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade November 2, 2020 (Start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades December 1, 2020 (Start of 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester)

We are currently working on opportunities for **In-Person Small Groups During CDL**. This option will allow us to invite small groups—no more than ten students in a small group—to school for a short window of support. We are currently outlining plans and will share them as we have additional information.

During this time, please remember that **school lunch** remains free for all students 18 years of age and under through December 31, 2020. Meals are currently available for pick-up at Clemens Primary School, from 11:45am-1:00pm, each school day. In order to plan appropriately, please complete the pre-order form for meals at <https://www.philomathsd.net/parents/food-services> We are currently finalizing arrangements to add three additional meal pick-up sites in order to make it easier for students to access meals each day. Additional locations will be finalized and shared by the end of this week.

While learning about academic content, we know that students are also working hard on the skills of perseverance, persistence, patience, and initiative. These are powerful life skills for all of us to develop. We also know that many of our students, staff, and families are struggling—each in their own way—with distance learning, feeling safe, wildfires, finding balance, and/or any number of other things. Even from a distance, it is vital that we care for our children, ourselves, and one another as the emotional load can be heavy. As we seek and strive for the goodness of learning at the school, and all that comes with it, please remember to always foster kindness and care.

Still learning together-

Susan

*Susan Halliday*

*Superintendent*

*Philomath School District*

*541-929-3169*