



## **Middle School Hybrid Learning Begins February 25**

Dear PSD Middle School Community,

Peninsula School District is ready to begin the 6th-8th grade hybrid in-person learning model at the end of February. Our experience so far with small groups and younger students back in our buildings has been very encouraging, and we are excited to now invite middle school students to be with one another and with their teachers on campus again.

This announcement is supported by the current COVID-19 metrics in our community. Starting February 1, Pierce County moved to Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's [Roadmap to Recovery](#) phased recovery plan. We have looked for case rates, hospitalizations, and positivity rates to be flat or declining when making decisions about offering in-person learning. We believe the current metrics, both in the county and in the district, fit these criteria. As you know, health metrics can fluctuate widely and relatively quickly, so it is important to remember these plans may need to be adjusted as the environment evolves.

### **Scheduling**

As we staff both in-person and remote platforms, our goal is for students to stay with their current teachers as much as possible, especially in the core subject areas. However, it is possible that some students, both in-person and remote, may be reassigned to different teachers.

### **Third Trimester**

As we return to in-person learning at the middle school level, we are planning for this transition to occur smoothly, with as few changes as possible for students. Therefore we have decided that changing from 2nd trimester to 3rd trimester will coincide with the start of the new learning model.

### **Hybrid In-Person Schedules**

We feel strongly that connecting with 6th grade students new to the middle school building environment is essential for their success. This means 6th graders will have the opportunity to spend a day meeting staff and getting familiar with their new school environment prior to the return of their older classmates. Therefore, we will kick-off in-person hybrid learning Thursday, February 25 in the following fashion.

- 6th grade 'A' day first day is set for Thursday, February 25;
- 6th grade 'B' day first day is set for Friday, February 26;
- 6th, 7th and 8th grade 'A' first day is set for Monday, March 1; and
- 6th, 7th and 8th grade 'B' first day is set for Tuesday, March 2.

### **Middle School Remote Students**

As previously communicated, most remote students will continue to attend 3 class periods a day. Some students who take classes where specific teaching certification is required may

have more than 3 classes per day. The length of class sessions will be shortened to approximately 50 minutes with periods 1, 2, and 3 occurring in the morning every Monday and Thursday, while periods 4, 5, and 6 will be held every Tuesday and Friday afternoon.

### **Parent Nights Coming Soon**

Middle schools will be offering virtual parent nights (both in-person and remote) before February 25. Please watch for information from your child's school for a date and time.

### **Health Reminders**

Please share these reminders with your child:

- Physical Distancing: Some individuals may be symptom free, so keeping distance is important.
- Health Screening: Students must do a health screening each day they come to school.
- Hand Washing/Sanitizing: Everyone should wash or sanitize their hands frequently.
- Face Coverings: COVID-19 is spread via droplets that we emit when we breath, talk, laugh, sing or shout, so face coverings are required while at school.

### **Thank you**

Thank you for your patience while we waited for the COVID-19 case numbers to be at a level that makes this hybrid learning experience possible for our students.

Sincerely,  
PSD Leadership