

April 2021

Dear Sheridan Families,

This month, there are a few things that need to be communicated, including an update of our Oregon Department of Education (ODE) guidance, state assessments and summer programs.

New Ready Schools, Safe Learners

Last week the ODE released the latest version of *Ready Schools, Safe Learners*. The guidance now says that we can have students three feet physically distant from other students, instead of six feet. The three feet of physical distance can only be while students are seated and facing forward. It also says that we must have students six feet apart when providing lunch.

The change in physical distance between students comes with several issues such as cafeteria space, shortage of appropriate student furniture (our tables do not allow for three feet of space and all students facing forward), and custodial cleaning. Additionally, we would still need to provide 100% online learning to any students who request it, and/or any student whose parent/guardian requests it. Due to these issues we will not be changing from our current Hybrid Model.

State Assessments

Districts across the state were recently notified that state assessments will need to be administered this school year. Typically there is a form that parents can complete to “opt-out” of the state testing process. This year I am recommending an “opt-in” form, meaning we will only administer state tests or other state mandated tests to those students who request it, and/or any students whose parent/guardian requests it.

At our April school board meeting I will have a resolution to the School Board to change our state testing process to “opt-in” for the 2020-21 school year. The form will be posted on the district website.

Summer Programs

In the next couple of weeks, our district committee for summer programs will be meeting to plan for expanded learning opportunities during July/August. The programs will include math and reading instruction, enrichment and credit recovery (SHS students). More information will be coming out soon!

Student Investment Account

I greatly appreciate the parents and staff who attended the community chats. In coming weeks we will host another round of community chats to further discuss the use of our Student Investment Account funds.

Many thanks for continuing to partner with Sheridan School District!

Dorie Vickery
Superintendent