



BANKS HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

Important Dates

November

11 - No School, Veteran's Day
13 - Grading Day - End of first quarter
16 - Start of second quarter
25 - 27 - No School - Thanksgiving Break

December

21 - Jan. 1st - No School - Holiday Break

January

1 - No School - Holiday Break
18 - No School - Martin Luther King JR Day
29 - Grading Day - End of second quarter

February

9 & 10 - School Pictures
15 - No School - Presidents Day

School Pictures

You may have been contacted by Lifetouch about taking pictures at home and ordering "school pictures" through their website.

We plan to take school photos by appointment on February 9th and 10th at Banks High School.

Lifetouch will have photographers here, and will follow all safety protocols and guidelines. More information coming soon!

Comprehensive Distance Learning

We have just finished our first quarter of the school year. Banks School District began the year in Comprehensive Distance Learning this fall. We have been able to deploy chromebooks to every student in the high school, and mobile WiFi hotspots to those who need internet connection. We have all learned a lot about digital learning, Canvas, Acellus, and Zoom meetings. This has been an interesting start to a school year, one that I am sure we will all remember.

We have seen constant changes to restrictions, guidelines, and policies from the Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Governor's office and the Oregon Health Authority. We have tried to adapt to these shifting requirements and provide the best education we can for our students under the circumstances.

We are sad for many of our students who have looked forward to many in-person events and traditions that make the high school years such a memorable time for many people. We have remained hopeful that we will be able to work with students in person this school year. However, recent case counts of Covid-19 in Washington County have been increasing at an alarming rate. Without a significant change in metrics requirements or Covid-19 case counts, we will likely be in Comprehensive Distance Learning for most if not all of this school year. We will do our best to continue to support students and families and keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Jacob Pence

Principal, Banks High School

jacobp@banks.k12.or.us 503-939-4530



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SENIORS AND JOSTENS ORDERS

Seniors and parents of Seniors – You should have been contacted by Jostens with directions to order your son/daughter's cap, gown, announcements, and other graduation items. If you have not received this important information, please let us know.

ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT

One thing we have noticed from the first quarter of Comprehensive Distance Learning is that students who attend live teaching sessions daily are being more successful than those who attend irregularly. Although attendance does not factor into students' grades, classes are much more difficult for those who do not participate in live lessons. Please make every effort to attend live video sessions each day.

Teachers are available daily from 8:00 - 9:00 AM and 2:15 - 3:15 PM for office hours. Students can reach out and set up times with their teachers to get additional support outside of class time.

Counselors, administrators, secretaries and other staff are available to help support students and parents. If you are experiencing any issues during distance learning, please communicate with the school and we will try to work together to come up with possible solutions.

Any students who did not pass one of their classes during first quarter should be signed up for a credit recovery class to recover this credit sometime this school year. Please reach out to the counselors to get this class assigned.

Keep doing your best! We are all in this together and will get through this school year supporting each other.



FEEDBACK

Included in this mailing will be report cards, transcripts, and other important information about your student. Students can track their progress on Canvas and by using StudentVUE. Parents can now set up a Canvas Parent Observer account or use Synergy ParentVUE to keep track of their students' progress. If you need help setting up either of these accounts, please reach out to the high school office.

Now that we have finished our first quarter of Comprehensive Distance Learning, we want to hear from you. We will be emailing a survey to every parent asking for feedback on what is going well and what we can change to help students and families during this difficult time. Please take a few moments to take this important survey.



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REGISTRATION PAPERWORK

We still need registration paperwork from several of our families. These important papers can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the school. We can also set up an appointment to meet in person. This is an important requirement for our schools to have accurate registration paperwork each school year. Thank you for your help with this.

LIMITED IN PERSON INSTRUCTION (LIPI):

During Comprehensive Distance Learning, we are allowed to bring small groups of students on campus because of internet connection issues, school support, mental-emotional support, Career Technical Education, Special Education testing, AP/Dual Credit class support, etc. We started with students who have internet issues at home. We have paused LIPI because of the Governor's recent "Statewide Pause" announcement. We hope to start this again soon, and expand to offer to more students. Students cannot be on campus for more than two hours, stay in a cohort of 25 or less, wear masks, and no food or drink.