

April 25th, 2020

Dear Families and Students of Banks School District:

We have made it through two weeks of distance learning. Congratulations on making it through another week of this adjusted teaching and learning schedule. We know this way of learning is not optimal and it is taking a lot of adjustment on the part of you and your students. We are working very hard to meet the needs of the students and try to bring some sense of normalcy to a very unique and challenging situation.

Please make sure if you are not receiving regular communication from your child's teacher, please let us know right away. We want to make sure that we are connecting with all students and parents during this time. This will ensure that all students are learning and moving forward with their education.

Here are a few updates and reminders:

- 1) We will continue to provide breakfast and lunch for children ages 1 to 18 at Banks Elementary School from 10 am to 12. The elementary pick-up site is daily meals only. We will also be delivering to Buxton School from 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. and Timber Junction on Hwy 26 from 10:25 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Children will be able to pick up 3 meals on Tuesday and 2 meals on Friday to cover for the week at these 2 delivery sites. Forest Grove School District is also delivering to Visitation School in Verboort at 11:30 a.m. and Glenwood Store on Highway 6 at 11:30 a.m. daily. Banks School District students can access those Forest Grove School District drop off points as well.
- 2) Packet pick-up and turn-in are on Mondays from 10 am to 12 pm at each school. The high school and middle school continue to be drive-thru and the elementary is park and receive at the front of the school. As a reminder, please continue to practice social distancing during these packet times, especially at elementary as you are approaching the packet table and picking up meals. Please park and leave children in the car. Thank you for continuing to help us with this.
- 3) Oregon Department of Education released guidance this week on rules for grades in K-8. The requirement states that students be graded on a pass/incomplete basis or a local equivalent and that we must create a report card or local equivalent for every student at the end of the year. We are currently working on creating a local equivalent that will best serve all of our students in grades K-8. More to come on that in the next week or so as we work through the process.

K-8 Guidance

Key points for K-8 are as follows:

- The approach to teaching and learning should be one that:
 - Prioritizes well-being and attends to the mental, social, and emotional needs of K-8 students.
 - Emphasizes family and community engagement.
 - Focuses on equity by:
 - Honoring the culture, language, ways of knowing, and perspectives of the families and students we serve;
 - Allowing flexible options for students to demonstrate learning;
 - Naming a Safeguarding Student Opportunity Clause to ensure no student is held back or denied access to opportunity due to extended school closure; and
 - Focusing on promising practices that promote and support student learning.
- A “pass” or “incomplete” marking system or its equivalent* will be used for report cards. (*Other terms that approximate “pass” or “incomplete,” such as “satisfactory” and “insufficient evidence” may be used).
- Year-end report cards or local equivalent will be generated for every student.

We appreciate all of the students and parents helping us with distance learning and making the best of a very difficult situation in our city, county, state, and country. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Be well,

Jeff Leo
Superintendent