

March 27, 2020

Dear Banks School District Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

As you know, the Governor has extended the closure of schools across the state through Tuesday, April 28, 2020, as one of the protective measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Numerous questions have arisen about what this means for students and families, below is the information we have at this time.

Meal Distribution

Banks School District is excited to let you know that we will begin offering breakfast and lunch meal service to students beginning Monday, March 30th and throughout the school closure period. Please keep in mind that each school district in Oregon must follow federal and state guidelines for serving student meals and this looks different for each school district depending on their free/reduced meal qualifications. Here are important details to help you plan:

WHEN: Beginning Monday March 30th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Monday – Friday

WHERE: All district students will receive meals in front of the Banks Elementary School. There will be no separate meal service at other schools in the district

WHO: Currently enrolled Banks School District students in all grades. Students who attend Banks School District but live outside of district boundaries, may alternatively be able to receive meals in the district in which they live (example: Students who live in Forest Grove but attend school in Banks can get meals through the Forest Grove meal sites). Check their district website or online information for their qualifications and site locations.

WHAT: Sack breakfast and sack lunch provided. Both meals will be served at the same time. Meals are “grab and go” so they can be stored at home for later eating! Students are welcome to take a lunch, a breakfast, or both.

HOW: We will be serving meals at the front door of the Banks Elementary School. Please park your car and come to the front of the school to pick up a breakfast and/or lunch from the table. Parents or students can pick up the breakfast/lunch, but the student’s name must be given at the time of pickup. Lunch staff will be available to assist you and to take the students name, but will maintain a distance of 6 feet. No one may congregate at the front of the school and if a line forms you will be instructed to remain 6 feet apart.

COST: Student meal payments are the same as when school is in session. Students who typically pay for school meals, will be subject to pay for emergency closure meals. The amount will be deducted from the student’s account. No money will be collected at the pickup site.

Students who are free or reduced will remain the same for the emergency closure meals. If your family income status has recently changed, you are welcome to fill out a free or reduced lunch application online. Please visit our website at www.banks.k12.or.us.

We will continue to work on receiving a waiver from Oregon Department of Education that will allow us to serve free meals to all, but at this time, we need to move forward with regular school lunch / breakfast protocols. We will update you if we receive information on a change in our status.

DELIVERY: If you have a need for delivery, please email your child's principal. We can arrange potential drop sites throughout the district if the need is there. Please let us know ASAP and we can also coordinate supplemental educational materials delivery as well.

Distance Learning

Though it is not a substitute for daily in-class instruction, the District will begin providing supplementary learning opportunities for students on Friday, April 3rd. The supplementary materials and activities will provide an opportunity for students to review the content and practice the skills they have already been taught.

The materials will be available both online and in hard copy for those students who either may not have access to technology or who prefer a paper copy of the material. Teachers and school staff should be sending on-line materials for those who have access. If you have specific requests, please email your child's teacher or principal to obtain packets or information on the supplemental learning packets. It will also be available on our district website.

www.banks.k12.or.us.

Beginning Monday, April 6th, teacher and staff will consistently be checking in with students and parents on progress on supplemental materials and answering questions. Our goal as a district is to provide engaging supplemental materials that will engage students throughout this closure. Parents, we are asking that you are instrumental in this engagement and help us out in this challenging time in your child's education.

Supplemental Learning Packets

If you are unable to access packets online, we will have pickup available during the following times starting Friday, April 3rd.

Friday and Mondays at each school from 10 to 12 pm. The high school will be near the cafeteria, the middle school will be in front of the middle school, and the elementary school will be at the front entrance. All pickups will be outside (under cover) the schools. Please do not approach the table if others are present and follow social distancing protocols of six feet. Pick up will occur on all Fridays and Mondays until the school closure is lifted.

We will be producing packets for two weeks, but will have pickup each week. Our teachers and staff are working hard to create materials that will keep the students engaged in two week increments.

If you need a packet delivered, please contact your child's principal to arrange a delivery.

Students with special needs

A separate letter will be sent to families of all students receiving special education and/or 504 services with answers to frequently-asked questions. If you have additional questions, please direct them to your child's special education teacher, counselor, or Student Services Director Shelley Mitchell at shelleym@banks.k12.or.us.

Seniors

We are still awaiting guidance from the Oregon Department of Education around how to ensure that seniors will be able to graduate on time. High school principal, Mr. Pence, will be in contact with each senior and their status once they release the guidance. I am hoping that is soon.

Students Grade 9 through 11 – Credit Requirements

We are still awaiting guidance from Oregon Department of Education.

Graduation Ceremonies

Our ability to hold graduation ceremonies will depend on the current situation with COVID-19. Additional information will be shared as soon as it is available.

Forecasting for incoming and current middle school and high school students

Secondary school counselors and principals are working on a forecasting plan for all current and incoming middle and high school students for the 2020-21 school year. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks.

End of the 2019-20 school year

It is still unclear whether or not this school year will be extended to make up for some of the time lost due to the COVID-19 related closure. We are awaiting guidance from the Oregon Department of Education and will communicate a final decision as soon as possible. This also includes a potential extended closure beyond the April 28th date. This information will be reassessed in mid-April as they analyze whether the COVID-19 curve has flattened.

Playgrounds and Facilities

In light of the Governor's order to stay home, eliminate non-essential travel and gatherings, and maintain appropriate social distance, the District has closed all of its playgrounds and surrounding school grounds and buildings. Please respect these closures as those are directives from the Governor to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We will continue to reach out to you and update our website with information as we have it. If you have questions, please reach out to your building administrator or district superintendent as they can find the answers for you.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding, and please stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Jeff Leo
Superintendent