

March 31, 2020

Dear Banks School District Families,

I hope you are all still doing well and are healthy. Over the past couple of weeks, we have all experienced just how rapidly things can change in this uncertain time. It happened again, last night we received new guidance from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) regarding instruction for our students. In the beginning, we thought our students would only miss a few days of school that possibly could be made up at the end of the school year. But that has changed as our state's response to COVID-19 has evolved.

Let's consider the shifts over the course of just the last two weeks (one of them spring break) for our students, families, and educators:

- On March 12<sup>th</sup>, we learned that our students would lose seven school days.
- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, we learned that our students would miss over a month of school.
- Today we know there is a very real potential that our students, like in many other states, may not return to school this academic year.

Beginning Friday, we will begin supplementary activities in an effort to provide students and families with tools to help students stay connected and learning. As there is the potential that our students may not return to school, ODE has instructed us to create a plan that would shift from providing supplementary education to providing Distance Learning for all students beginning April 13, 2020. Up until that date, we will continue with the supplementary learning plan that we have and we will distribute those for the first two weeks. Pick up will be on Friday and Monday from 10 to 12 at each school, starting this Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

What this will look like for students will be different depending on their grade level. Of course, without face-to-face interaction between students and teachers, learning will feel different. We will build off of the work we have done and continue to work on a plan to provide instruction according to ODE's guidelines. This will include potential for credit earning courses for graduation requirements (high school courses) and graded assignments at all grade levels. As we work through the many details on how this will work, we ask for your grace and patience.

We understand the stress this puts on families and we are committed to do the best we can to help you navigate this experience. We want to help you and your students feel connected to their school and remain optimistic about the future. It will take all of us to play a role in guiding our students through this uncertain time.

There is a lot more information to come. I will continue to provide you with updates as our plan takes shape. In the meantime, please do your best to help your students participate in the supplemental learning activities so they can continue to learn. Stay safe, optimistic and positive as we face these challenging circumstances. We are in this together and I know we will come out stronger.

Respectfully,

Jeff Leo  
Superintendent