



PHILOMATH MIDDLE SCHOOL

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Be Brave. Be Kind.

2020-2021 School Year

Happy New Year -- Welcome to 2021!

Parent Survey Update

Thank you to all who participated in the parent survey we sent out in December. As of January 6, 195 of our 287 student families responded to the survey. Of those that responded, 57 desire to stay in the CDL learning format, 135 would like to transition to a Hybrid learning model. A few families would like to transition their student from Philomath Academy to CDL or Hybrid, and from the middle school to the Philomath Academy. Your survey input is very helpful as it informs our decisions for the upcoming transition to Hybrid learning.

We are in the process of creating a schedule for the upcoming transition taking into account all requests and desires. As you may imagine there are many variables that need to be accounted for regarding student and staff safety, learning opportunities for all students, and the blending of CDL and In-person learning. We have had multiple plans since September, but as our understanding and awareness has changed and grown the plans continue to evolve.

We plan to provide a daily schedule and a working Hybrid learning plan to you Friday, January 15.

Please be prepared that a Hybrid Learning model does not look or feel like a “normal” school day. It is a blend of CDL and In-Person Learning with all safety protocols in place. When does the opportunity for Hybrid Learning begin? We are tentatively planning for January 26th to be the first available day. This is dependent upon health metrics and the phase in beginning with the Primary and Elementary schools.

New Semester

Tuesday, January 26 is the first day of the new semester (Quarter 3). Students will have a new academic schedule. There will be no school on January 21, 22, and 25 as teachers prepare Second Quarter grades and then plan for Hybrid learning transition. The last day to turn in any late work for 2nd quarter is Wednesday, January 20.

Late Work Policy Shift

Students have been working extra hard adapting to a new way of learning during CDL. We are so proud of their efforts! To give students a greater opportunity to complete all the assigned work, we have shifted our late work policy. Students now will have a one week grace period to turn in their late assignments for full credit. After that, there will only be a maximum 15% deduction on the assignment through the end of that grading period. Students may turn in assignments up to the end of the grading period. We offer this shift knowing that the CDL and upcoming Hybrid Learning environment has many challenges and variables. The middle school staff has been and will continue to provide much grace regarding assignment completion. Please have your student communicate with their teachers when they are struggling with assignment completion.

Important Dates:

- Jan. 18.....MLK Day —No School
- Jan. 21 -22.....No School- Teacher Preparation for Hybrid
- Jan. 25.....Grading/ Planning Day—No School
- Jan. 26.....Quarter 3 begins / new semester
- Jan. 26.....Hybrid Learning begins for 6th—8th Grade (depending upon health metrics and the phase in beginning for Primary and Elementary schools)



PMS

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Be Brave. Be Kind.

2020-2021 School Year

Talent Show

Our annual Talent Show will look a little different this year, but it is still happening! Entries are due Monday, January 11. Please contact Mrs. Thompson with any questions. The Talent Show will have a variety of performing acts compiled into video form. It will be viewed during advisory class the week of January 19-22. The video will also be posted to our webpage for easy sharing with friends and family.

Battle of the Books

America's Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program for students in 3rd - 12th grades. On a typical school year, students read books and come together, usually in groups, to test their knowledge of the books they have read. PMS has three teams this school year who are reading, and

meeting virtually (via Zoom) to prepare for an upcoming battle this spring. The date, time, and location of the battle are yet to be determined. If you have any question regarding Battle of the Books, please contact Kim Maness at kim.maness@philomath.k12.or.us

7th Grade Required Immunizations

7th grade students are now at the age where a Tdap booster is needed for immunization requirements. The deadline to have updated immunizations complete is February 19, 2021. If you have questions or concerns please call Tina Hoch, RN the District Nurse at 541-740-0245.

Picture Day

We will be rescheduling picture day for a date in late February. Stay tuned for more information.

January 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|---|---|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 No School— MLK Day | 19 | 20 | 21 No School - Hybrid Learning Planning | 22 No School - Hybrid Learning Planning | 23 |
| 24 | 25 No School— Grading/Planning | 26 Second Semester Begins | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |