



Philomath Public Schools

Benton County School District 17J, 1620 Applegate Street, Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

March 31, 2020

Dear Philomath School District Community,

As a community, we are all continuing to be impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. We are all doing our best to “Stay Home and Save Lives”. The changes required for schools are causing our State to rethink our response as we learn more about the virus. As a district, we have been responding as we receive information from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), while at the same time attempting to over prepare in the background. Last night at about 9:00 PM, we received notification of a pivot in expectation from ODE.

This morning, we are meeting as an administrative team to decipher the information in the ODE notice and begin the shift in emphasis. We do continue to expect our teaching staff to contact families and gather information to help in the process. It is critical that we understand the technological needs of our entire student population so we can equally deploy our assets as well as our instruction. We have had conversations with our transportation provider on many different aspects for both delivery and pick-up of learning materials and posting, if possible, internet access points in our community. The announcement last night came with the direction for us to attend a virtual meeting this afternoon with ODE for clarification of the new direction. We were also instructed that the final graduation requirements for the 2020 school year will not be published until vetted at all levels and it is estimated we will see that at the beginning of next week. When we receive it, we will pass it on. Again, I want to reassure the seniors that we have reviewed all of your transcripts and are confident that you are properly positioned no matter what the adjustment is.

This is certainly a trying time for all of us and we are all doing our best to bring you the services you all need. As decisions are made, I will use the district website and School Messenger to communicate them with you. Please feel free to email me if necessary and I will do my best to respond with the most current information that we have.

Sincerely,



Buzz Brazeau