



# Philomath School District 17J

Benton County School District No. 17J, 1620 Applegate Street Philomath OR 97370 (541) 929-3169

**UPDATE**  
**Philomath School District 17J**  
**Board of Directors**  
 Superintendent's Report  
 November 16, 2020

**Returning to School:**

- A letter, sent to families on November 9<sup>th</sup>, referenced bringing students in Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade back to school in the Hybrid Learning Model on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The request to bring back our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the same time was denied as we must first demonstrate success with our K-3 students.
- On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Oregon Governor, Kate Brown, announced a two-week “freeze” throughout Oregon. The freeze is in effect from Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, until Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- It is important to note that this action does not change any of the guidance or metrics discussed in the **Ready Schools, Safe Learners** documentation from ODE and OHA.
  - Metrics will be reviewed today to assist with confirmation or delay of hybrid learning.
  - Health authorities continue to see minimal transmission of COVID in schools when protocols are followed.
  - Limited In-Person Instruction will continue as scheduled.
  - An update on school athletics will be forthcoming sometime this week.

**Benton County Metrics - Updated:**

Time Period	Case Count	Cases per 100,000	Test Positivity
11/01/2020-11/14/2020	152	161.1	9.2%
10/25/2020 – 11/07/2020	74	78.4	4.0%
10/18/2020 – 10/31/2020	52	55.1	2.1%
10/11/2020 – 10/24/2020	59	62.5	2.1%
10/04/2020 – 10/17/2020	66	69.9	1.9%

**Updated Recommendation:**

- All K-12 students will remain in CDL through Winter Break.
- Limited In-Person Instruction will continue to take place as currently scheduled.
- November 24-25, 2020 will now be usual school days for our K-3 students.
- November 26-28, 2020 are non-school days for all K-12 students.
- All K-12 students will remain in CDL from January 5-8 & 11, 2021. This will provide a quarantine week following the Winter Break from school).
- If Oregon metrics allow, would like to consider tentatively returning students to school on the following dates:
  - Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade                      January 12, 2021 (Tuesday)
  - 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade                                        January 26, 2021 (Tuesday)
  - 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade                                      February 2, 2021 (Tuesday)

- Philomath SD is helping the two-week freeze in the following ways:
  - Ensuring strong School Entry and Screening protocols for students and staff entering school or district facilities.
  - Emphasizing key practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
    - Airflow and Ventilation
    - Cohorts
    - Environment Cleaning and Disinfecting
    - Hand Hygiene
    - Isolation and Quarantine, as necessary
    - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
    - Physical Distancing
  - Supporting the west coast travel advisory, encouraging a 14-day self-quarantine upon return from other states or countries.
  - Supporting work-from-home opportunities, when possible. It is allowable for staff to be on campuses.

**Student Success Act:**

- Currently advertising to hire additional Instructional Assistants, primarily to support student learning at the secondary (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) level.

**Clemens Pool:**

- As referenced above, welcome to our new pool director, ***Daniel Mikula***. He will begin work on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Daniel has also accepted the position as the Head Swim Coach for Philomath High School.
- Prior to the end of the calendar year, the *Pool Advisory Committee* will be re-convened.
- Mr. Mikula will begin working on the creation of both short- and long-term plans for operation.

**School Lunch:**

- School lunches will continue to be ***free to students*** 18 years of age and younger through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. This is welcome news for our students and families.

**In-Person Small Groups:**

- Continuing to host limited in-person instruction (LIPI) for small groups during CDL (Comprehensive Distance Learning).
- May only host group sizes of no more than 20 students at a time for no more than two hours per day.

### **Professional Learning:**

- As referenced in the Philomath Education Association agreement, the district will “schedule a number of early release days for be used for professional development activities”.
  - Individual At Least Four (4) Days
  - Team At Least Five (5) Days
  - School/ District Remaining Days
- The nine specifically-designated days are to be used for professional learning in the following areas:
  - Curriculum Development,
  - Instructional Enhancement,
  - Student Assessment,
  - Student Growth Goals, or
  - Related School Improvement Activities.
- School and District days focus on the following:
  - AVID Strategies and Implementation;
  - Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTIi);
  - School- or District-Specific Goals;
  - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Strategies and Support; or
  - Student Assessment (Statewide and Local).
- In prior years, early release days have been scheduled for Friday afternoons.
- Given changes brought about by COVID-19, professional learning days have been changed to Monday for the current school year.
- Priorities for professional learning in the 2020-2021 school year focus on the planning for and delivery of instruction in various COVID-19 instructional models. Thus far, topics have consisted of the following:
  - Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) Curriculum and Instruction;
  - Growth Goals (Class, Team, and/or School);
  - Learning Management Systems for CDL (Canvas, Google, Seesaw);
  - RTIi;
  - School- or District-Specific Goals;
  - SEL Strategies and Support;
  - Student Assessment;
  - Student Engagement; or
  - Student Grading.

### **All Students Belong:**

- New rule, adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education in mid-September.
- OAR 581-022-2312, titled **All Students Belong**.
- The rule prohibits hate symbols, specifically three of the most recognizable symbols of hate in the United States—the swastika (outside of a religious context), the Confederate flag, and the noose.
- Temporary rules took effect on September 18, 2020.
- Policies and procedures must be approved no later than January 1, 2021.
- School districts are required to adopt policies and procedures that prohibit the use or display of the aforementioned symbols in any program or school-sponsored activity except where used in teaching curricula aligned with Oregon State Standards.
- Sample policy attached for initial reading.

### **Miscellaneous Other Activities:**

- Weekly or bi-weekly meetings with leadership in each school and program.
- As able, joining Nurse Tina Hoch for newly-scheduled weekly update meetings with the Benton County Health Department.
- Continued participation in the *Mid-Valley Mid-Coast Partnership*, a collective that meets bi-monthly, led by Dr. F. King Alexander, the president of Oregon State University. The group consists of representatives from the following:
  - Corvallis School District
  - Greater Albany Public Schools
  - Lane Education Service District
  - Lebanon Community School District
  - Lincoln County School District
  - Linn-Benton Community College
  - Linn Benton Lincoln Education Service District
  - Oregon State University
  - Philomath School District
  - Sweet Home School District
  - WREN (Western Regional Education Network)
- Continued participation with District and Regional Equity teams.
  - NAACP Celebration was held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Continued participation in the COSA New Superintendent Academy.
- Continued participation with the Philomath Rotary Club.
  - Thanks to Philomath Rotary for the following:
    - Filling weekly food bags for distribution in the Weekend Food Pack Program. (Jill Williams, counselor at Blodgett and PES, will be the featured speaker at the meeting tomorrow).
    - Leadership in *Rotary Reach-Out*, simply reaching out to our community during these challenging times with nothing expected in return. Just the club's way to say 'thanks' to our local restaurants by encouraging dining at two establishments each week through the end of December.