



**SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Preparing children for an ever changing world

504 N. Third Ave. / PO Box 28
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Phone: 503-355-2222

Fax: 503-355-3434

www.nknsd.org

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Staff, I hope you are relaxing this summer after an “interesting” spring. I would like to thank all of you for your performance last spring from your initial response to the pandemic, your transition from a face-to-face model to supplemental and distance learning models, and culminating in the end-of-the year closure of school. Very little of what you experienced last spring was expected. The “normal” routine of the school day, and school year, was entirely disrupted. Who would have expected March 1 that you would be teaching from home in April? How many of you had participated in a virtual meeting before the pandemic? What exactly did the following terms mean: SeeSaw, Zoom, distance & supplemental learning, Google Hangout, F2F (face-to-face), face coverings, Executive Orders, etc.? Who would have guessed there would be a state-wide school closure that would last for months? Custodians working in schools without staff and students in April and May? Cooks preparing hundreds of meals daily for bus delivery? Neah-Kah-Nie High School graduation in August?

I cannot begin to explain what we all went through, but I can explain how Neah-Kah-Nie School District staff rose to the situation. In my discussions with school superintendents throughout the state in May and June, the consensus was students, staff, and families, were “burned out” with distance learning and basically gave up. Quite frankly, I never felt NKN staff were “burned out”. Yes, staff were challenged by distance learning and were frustrated with the lack of personal contact with students and their parents, but staff never gave up on their responsibility to provide the highest quality education possible.

What next? In early June, Oregon Department of Education came out with Operational Blueprint for School Reentry 2020-21. This document was shared with staff in June and is available on the school district website. The Operational Blueprint requires each school district and each school to submit a plan to provide on-site and/or hybrid instruction. At the end of the school year, the district and each school began the process of developing reopening plans. School teams will continue to work on individual plans in early August. The plans must be approved by the county health department and school board by August 15.

As you are aware, the number of COVID-19 cases have increased since early June. This will impact the reentry plans. What I do know is the safety of students and staff is paramount. Each reentry plan will reflect this.

In addition to the initial Operational Blueprint for School Reentry 2020-21, additional guidelines will be available July 20.

Will the school district calendar change? This is a possibility. The school district understands the priority of student and staff safety. When school administrators return August 3rd they will schedule meetings with teams to complete each reentry plan. If additional training for staff on distance learning and safety protocols is warranted, then this will be done. We also understand the importance of training students, if an on-site and/or hybrid model is chosen.

There is a lot of work that will be done in early August that will influence each school's reentry plan. The school district will keep staff informed of the status of reentry plans.

Thank you for your outstanding work, be safe, relax, and enjoy your time with friends and family.

Sincerely,

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent
Neah-Kah-Nie School District