

January 5, 2021

Dear Knappa Community:

We are off to a positive 2022 at Knappa Schools. Students and staff are back and seem to be in good spirits. In visiting classrooms, there is a positive vibe and quality learning taking place.

We have a few new staff members with us this week. Cayla Starr is our new elementary school motor room assistant, Kathy Newmann is our new high school resource room assistant, Tom Ferrenburg is our new bus mechanic, and Jasmin Geografo is our new high school science teacher. We are glad they have joined us and look forward to their contributions to student success.

Tonight, the Board will be discussing the tentative plan for school construction timing and processes. We appreciate the community's support for the bond and are taking the next steps to do design on a quality facility.

COVID cases in our county are steadily increasing. We have seven students from four families out right now due to positive tests. We also have two students under quarantine. These cases appear to have been initiated during the break.

Earlier this week, I shared that the Oregon Department of Education "recommended" (but did not require) a pause in athletics. Districts that do not pause were directed to review and/or improve game protective measures. The school district has conducted this review, and we are taking the following actions:

- We met with the high school athletes yesterday and will meet with the middle school athletes shortly about the importance of following protocols (masking, etc.) to prevent COVID spread and/or quarantine.
- We will be sending a notification to athletes and parents related to risks associated with athletics at this time.
- We are limiting guest fans to schools that are willing to send their own supervisor.

If you are a parent of an athlete, you should know that a number of league schools are not permitting "away fans" from attending games. Our coaches will keep you and players apprised of this. Most opposing schools do provide a video feed of their games.

There are schools in our region that have had to pause school due to COVID cases, mainly due to inability to staff their schools. Other local districts have had to pause individual classes and grade levels due to COVID spread. So far, our mitigation measures have worked, but we are making sure we are prepared for any scenario.

This is my first official letter since the break, so I do wish to acknowledge the musical groups for their wonderful concert on December 16th. They have worked really hard these last few months, and it was fun to hear the results of their practice. Thanks to Mr. Achilles for his leadership on re-launching the music program, to the students for their diligence with learning, and to parents for their support by attending the concert, but also doing their part at home with reminding students to practice and for

their patience while students are improving the sounds of their instruments. I anticipate great things to come for the Knappa Music Program.

Wishing you new year cheer,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Knappa School District #4