



**Knappa School District No. 4**  
William Fritz Ph.D.-Superintendent

September 2, 2021

Dear Knappa Community:

**Here We Go!** We are anxiously awaiting the start of school. Our teachers have been here all week getting ready for school. Their classrooms are being set up to welcome students, they have reviewed our safety protocols, the schools have reviewed how to help connect with students and build positive and healthy relationships that support learning, and the teachers have been engaged in professional learning. This training has primarily been structured around mathematics instruction, a model for how to better engage ALL students within our classrooms (called Universal Design for Learning), and AVID strategies (which are aimed at helping all students be successful in their post high school education and career paths).

We look forward to a “more normal” year than we have seen since fall of 2019. We will have a full length school day, in person. By now, you should have received orientation information from the schools. You likely have also received an invitation to sign up for Parent Square. Parent Square is our new parent communication system. Teachers, the school, the district, coaches, etc. will be using this as their primary means of communication with families. Don’t be left out; sign up as soon as you can.

**Safety Information.** Case rates were significantly down this week in Clatsop County, from 983.4 to 788.2 per 100,000. This is still not a good number, but it appears to be a start of the decline that had been predicted. With the Hood to Coast race this last weekend, the Labor Day Holiday, and back to school, there may be some headwinds on this reduction. We continue to encourage our community to take steps to prevent COVID spread. This includes vaccinations, wearing masks when indoors with people not in your households, and quality distancing, even when outdoors. Much like last year, we have a number of safety procedures in place. These are outlined in the safety brochure we sent last week (it is also on our website).

As was the case last year, if students are sick, please do not send them to school.

Prior to the start of school, please reinforce with students the proper wearing of their facemasks so that school can be focused on learning and not re-directing. We suggest you work closely with your child to find masks that fits properly, are as comfortable as possible, and stay in place.

**Dental Care and Vaccinations in Knappa.** The mobile dental and vaccination clinic was at the school yesterday and the turn out for both dental care and vaccinations was strong. We are glad that people took advantage of the convenience of these services in Knappa.

***Knappa Schools: “All students prepared to rise to the opportunities and challenges of the world.”***

**Election Information.** We are eight weeks away from election day. As you likely know, our school district capital bond measure will be on the ballot. This bond will:

- Create a dedicated set of classrooms for the middle school, including a modern science lab and a “learning hub” space for group work and community activities,
- Remove the portable classrooms,
- Add a new gym to the site, which can be used by the community (for events or meetings), the high school (as an auxiliary gym), the elementary school (for indoor recess) and the middle school (as their primary gym space),
- Update safety systems within both schools, including devices to secure the building and fire sprinklers,
- Replace failing roofs, siding, plumbing, electrical, and heating/ventilation systems,
- Add a dedicated location for pre-school instruction,
- Provide funds for seismic stability purposes, and
- Allow for a remodel of the common spaces at Hilda Lahti Elementary.

The \$14 million bond will result in an estimated tax rate of \$2.20/\$1,000 in assessed value. This is comparable to the average rate for the previous bond, which was \$2.23/\$1,000 of value. If approved, the taxes would take effect in November 2022. A citizen’s oversight committee will be assigned to provide oversight for the bond process and expenditures. The District is also committed to allocating resources to maintain the facility each year as part of the regular budget.

Knappa School District has been selected for a state matching grant in the amount of \$4 million. This means that passing a \$14 million bond will allow for \$18 million of construction to be completed. This grant will only come to the district if the bond passes, and may not be available to the district in the future.

**Knappa Virtual Academy.** There is still room in the KVA program. The link to enroll is on the website. *It will close tonight (September 2) at midnight.*

**Wanna Drive a Big Yellow Bus?** We are still looking for another bus driver. We do the training and there is a \$500 signing bonus. Please call 503-458-5993 x303 if you or somebody you know is interested. Candidates must have a clean driving record and no drug use.

**Knappa Connect.** If home school families wish to partner with the school district to receive curriculum support or to sign up for part time classes, please contact Carrie Palenske at [palenskec@knappak12.org](mailto:palenskec@knappak12.org).

We look forward to having students back and to the start of a great school year.

Sincerely,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Knappa School District #4