

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J

www.vernonia.k12.or.us



January 13, 2022

To All Vernonia School District Parents,

While we have made a focused effort to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the numbers are just overwhelming our efforts to ensure students' and staff members' safety.

It is with a heavy heart that I share with you that Vernonia Schools Building (VES, VMS & VHS) needs to move completely to a Distance Learning format for the next two weeks, beginning Tuesday, January 18, 2022. **Mist Grade School parents, please see note at the end of this letter.** Covid-19 numbers continue to climb in our community, and as of this afternoon we have 13 staff and over 85 students testing positive or on quarantine because of contact with someone who has tested positive. Vernonia Schools Building will plan to return to on-site school, Monday, January 31, 2022 unless Covid-19 numbers continue to be at unsafe levels.

Vernonia Schools Building students will NOT have school on-site or on-line on Friday, January 14th (see exception below). On this day all teachers will be putting final touches to their Distance Learning formats and will be ready to deliver initial on-line instruction on Tuesday, January 18th. Please note, some VES classes have already transitioned to Distance Learning due to quarantine time away from the school building. The following classes WILL have school and start Distance Learning on Friday, January 14th:

- VES Kindergarten
- VES 1st Grade
- VES 5th Grade -Mr. Falkowski's class only

Vernonia Middle & High School class schedules will be the same as the Distance Learning last year. Mr. Underwood, Principal, will send out an update to students and parents.

Students and staff are putting together the materials and supplies they will need for distance learning prior to their leaving school today, but if you or your students have any needs in this area please contact the school at 503-429-1333.

Food Service will be operational starting Tuesday, January 18th. Breakfast and lunch will be available for Vernonia Schools students for pick-up M-F, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the backside of the building by the kitchen.

Even though our schools will be in Distance Learning we still need you to share information with us on any symptoms being presented, or positive Covid-19 test results for your students, so we can monitor and make the best decision possible on a return to in person instruction.

VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
1201 Texas Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1447
Phone: (503) 429-5891
Fax (503) 429-7742

VERNONIA HIGH SCHOOL
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Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
Fax (503) 429-4539

VERNONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
1000 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
Fax (503) 429-4530

VERNONIA ELEM. SCHOOL
1000 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, OR 97064-1445
Phone: (503) 429-1333
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MIST ELEM. SCHOOL
59163 Hwy. 47
Mist, OR 97016-7203
Phone: (503) 755-2486
Fax (503) 755-2213

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As for athletics.....

Recently the Oregon Department of Education issued guidance urging schools to shut down their athletic programs, or develop other mitigation strategies, to help curb the spread of Covid-19 in our schools. While we have had some issues with Covid-19 in our sports programs, spread and actual identified cases have been minimal once quarantining guidelines have been put in place. Until we see spread directly within our athletic programs, we will not be cancelling our scheduled athletic contests.

Our current masking and safety measures will remain in place, but the following guidelines for athletic contests are now in place:

- No visiting fans will be allowed at athletic contests in Vernonia.
- Each athlete will receive four (4) “passes” for local family members only to attend our home contests. These “passes” will allow these family members access to purchasing admission to the athletic contest. No other fans will be allowed into the game other than staff running the athletic contest.
- All student athletes and coaches must be masked at all times when not actively participating in the event.
- Social Distancing must be maintained as much as possible.
- No concessions will be sold and no food allowed in the gym. All personal food must be consumed in the cafeteria with social distancing maintained. This will eliminate the need for fans to be unmasked in the gym area where the event is taking place.
- If there are any issues with fans not complying they will be given one warning, then asked to leave if there are further mask violations.

Again, we are very sorry to have to move to Distance Learning, but given our current Covid-19 conditions it is warranted and necessary.

Thank you for your continued attention to our safety protocols in the hopes that we can return to learn on-site as soon as possible.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Aaron Miller
Superintendent

Mist Grade School: All students will not have school on Friday, January 14th and will return to on-site at Mist Grade School on Tuesday, January 18th. Meals will be delivered as normal.

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