



Ocean View School District

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July 8, 2020

Re: School Reopening Plans for 2020-21

Dear OVSD Parents,

I hope your summer is off to a good start and that this communication finds you safe and well. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an environment of uncertainty, which has had a profound effect on all of us. I'd like to eliminate a little bit of that uncertainty by sharing our initial plans for the 2020-21 school reopening. During the past few weeks, our Board of Trustees have devoted time at each of their meetings to discuss considerations and develop plans for the reopening of school in the fall. The following guiding factors were considered in our planning: community support, student impact (academically and socially), safety and feasibility.

As you know, a School Reopening Parent Survey was sent out in June, and the results indicated that 60% of parents wanted an In-Person School Model for their child, 23% of parents preferred a Hybrid Model, 12% selected the Virtual Learning Model, and 5% chose not to answer. Most families prefer the In-Person or Hybrid Model due to concerns about the social-emotional well-being of children, as a result of social isolation. In addition, many parents shared their concerns regarding child care if students were not in school each day. Some parents reported that they will not be comfortable sending their children back to school until a vaccine is developed or herd immunity is achieved.

The Board carefully reviewed the balance between the number of parents that have a strong desire to see their children back in the classroom with the parents that would like to have their child at home participating in virtual learning. The Board of Trustees has set the direction to implement two instructional models for the 2020-2021 school year; In-Person with safety enhancements and Virtual Learning. Parents will have the opportunity to select the learning model most appropriate to meet the needs of each of their children. Below is a description of each model, guidelines for mandatory face coverings, and development of OVSD's Protection Plan.

In-Person Model: Students will attend school each day and receive in-person daily instruction. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates for students to be physically present when returning to school this fall. Safety protocols will be in place including the wearing of face coverings, social distancing, regular hand washing, temperature and health monitoring, and increased disinfecting and sanitizing. Further details on these protocols are being developed and will be outlined in the OVSD Protection Plan.

Face Coverings: We will adhere to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines and mandates regarding face coverings. All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings to school. In some instances, due to age, special needs, or when social distancing is possible, there will be exceptions to wearing face coverings. Protocols for wearing face coverings are still being developed and additional information will be shared with parents before school begins.

Virtual Learning Model: This model allows families the choice to continue distance learning in a new, augmented format. The Ocean View Virtual Academy (OVVA) provides a home schooling option for our families with alignment to Ocean View curriculum and state standards with instruction directed by an OVSD teacher with parent support. OVVA Parent Information Meetings will be held in August to allow families to learn more about this option and decide if this model is a match for their child.

OVSD Protection Plan: We are currently developing a plan that will provide evidence that OVSD has taken the steps necessary to reopen school in a safe and responsible manner in accordance with the industry-specific guidelines from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the requirements of the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA). To fulfill the requirements of the OCHCA's *School Reopening Checklist & Attestation*, we will:

- Develop a Written Worksite Specific Plan
- Provide Relevant Training for Employees & Students
- Plan Individual Control Measures & Screening
- Implement Thorough Cleaning & Disinfecting Protocols
- Promote Physical Distancing Guidelines

The rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic has resulted in a recent surge in COVID-19 cases and changes in statewide orders. OVSD is closely monitoring the guidance and mandates from state agencies and officials to understand the implications for our schools and adapt as needed to safely serve our students and families. Our team is developing an alternative hybrid plan IF we need to pivot to such an alternative. Please know that the safety of students, staff and our community is our priority; therefore, we will continue to be vigilant and adjust as needed to ensure our practices align with the current conditions, while maintaining academic excellence and equity for all students.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your engagement and partnership. Our parents play an important role in helping us make sound decisions and deliver on our promise to provide the highest quality educational experience we can envision. Our current circumstances have challenged us all, but together we will ensure that our children continue to learn at the highest levels and to thrive in school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Hansen
Superintendent