



# Reedsport School District 105

100 Ranch Road, Reedsport OR 97467-1739

Phone: (541) 271-3656 • Fax: (541) 271-3658

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September 29, 2020

## **RE: Reopening Reedsport School Buildings**

We are aware that there is regular and frequent discussion about returning students to the school buildings. This letter will not attempt to detail all of the factors that are individually considered in the decision-making process related to reopening buildings. Instead, we will be focusing on our steps to bring Reedsport students back into Reedsport classrooms.

Based on the data we see now and after discussing with our local public health authority and with approval from the Oregon Department of Education, Reedsport School District is outlining the following plan for students to return to buildings. We expect and support that there are still families who have chosen to keep their students' home while the pandemic continues. We will continue to support students/families in remote, distance learning within the district. There is individual choice involved in this matter and we will serve our students in the manner in which they have notified us. A big factor that families are considering is the requirement for students to wear face masks/face coverings during transportation and during onsite time in the buildings.

Beginning Monday October 12, students enrolled in Kindergarten through 3rd grade will be scheduled to return to assigned classrooms in Highland Elementary School. These students will be scheduled for daily instruction in the buildings for approximately half of the day. There will be more detail available about this schedule soon. There will be supportive instruction for students during their afternoon/evening time. Additionally, 7th grade students will be scheduled to return to RCCS classes beginning Monday October 12th. In order to comply with social distance and cohorting expectations for safety, these students will either be scheduled to attend Monday/Tuesday beginning (the 12th/13th) OR Wednesday/Thursday (the 14th/15th). Days that students are not assigned to be in the building will still be school days continuing with remote, distance learning. In all cases, these are slow starts to reintroduce students into the buildings and ensure that the systems, protocols, and safety precautions work as expected. We will also continue to monitor technology during this transition. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all students and staff and to begin finding ways to serve our students in the best possible manner.

In select cases, a few students will also be invited to return to the buildings who do not fall within these grade levels. These students meet the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) explanation for Limited In Person Instruction (LIPI). There is strict guidance for Reedsport School District to follow by inviting these students back into the buildings. These students/families will be identified and contacted individually following the rules and guidance laid out by the ODE.

Next, starting Monday October 19th, we will expand our opening to include Kindergarten through 6th grade at Highland and the 7th and 8th grade at RCCS. Again, K-6 at Highland will follow an approximate half day schedule which will be detailed soon. There will be supportive instruction for students during their afternoon/evening time. 7th and 8th graders will each be assigned to 2 days of instruction in the building with the remaining days scheduled to continue remote, distance learning. We will continue to monitor safety for all as well as the technology load during that time. Limited In Person Instruction will continue during this week.

Finally, we are looking at Monday October 26th as the date to return all students in all grade levels to the buildings. At this time, it appears that Highland will follow an approximate half day schedule for student in the building with supportive instruction for students during their afternoon/evening time. At RCCS, there will continue to be a model of having students in the building for 2 days and accessing remotely the rest of the week.

We are watching the outbreak of cases in our state and county on a regular basis. There have been many factors since last spring which have caused us to react suddenly and created a need to make changes. This is the best information we have at this time and we feel it is important to provide advance notice for students and families to prepare for these dates. There will be more information coming out regarding these schedules including specific times for buildings.

We also know that several services are going to be adapted in order to make this work. A big example that families and students will notice right away will be the entrance and dismissal patterns will look VERY different this year than in the past. We ask families to plan ahead for things like dropping students off at school and to pay attention to things like parking lot traffic patterns and new drop off locations. We ask students to be prepared to enter the



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building and to use new patterns to move around within the buildings. There will be a great deal to learn and we will all do our best to communicate frequently so that students/families can prepare.

**In summary:**

- K-3 return on 10/12 through 10/16. LIPI will occur as well
- 7th return the week of 10/12 on a Black/Red schedule. LIPI will occur as well
- K-6 return on 10/19 through 10/23. LIPI will occur as well
- 7-8 return the week of 10/19 on a Black/Red schedule. LIPI will occur as well
- K-6 continues. LIPI will occur as well
- 7-12 returns on 10/26 on a Black/Red schedule. LIPI will occur as well

If at any point, the rates of infection become too high or rise too quickly, ODE has guidance about warning community about the possibility of returning to distance/remote learning and guidance about actually returning to distance/remote learning. Once we open our buildings and then if we ever have to make changes back to distance/remote learning models, we will communicate at that time. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

Stay Safe.

-jz