
[4j_priority_mail] Important Updates on Return to Learning in Fall 2020

From : Cydney Vandercar <vandercar_c@4j.lane.edu> Tue, Aug 04, 2020 04:59 PM
Sender : 4j_priority_mail <4j_priority_mail-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [4j_priority_mail] Important Updates on Return to Learning in Fall 2020
To : 4J Staff <4j_priority_mail@4j.lane.edu>

Team,

Planning for the coming school year continues to evolve along with the public health situation. I have a couple of important updates to share.

The schedule information below will be shared with parents later this evening. Please do not share it before then. We will let you know when that message has gone out.

First, we are now planning for teaching and learning online for the entire first trimester. It has become clear both that public health conditions will remain uncertain for some time, and that our staff and families have a need for some greater certainty for planning in an uncertain time, as well as stability and continuity of instruction for academic success.

We had previously determined that 4J schools would start the year online in “comprehensive distance learning” for all grades. What is new is that we will remain online through the first trimester. This will include some limited, targeted on-site supports for individual students or small groups, but the general student body will not be on-site in school buildings.

We may be able to have students return to school buildings for a hybrid of online and on-site learning in Trimester 2. We will decide this in mid-November for the start of the trimester on December 7 (for all levels, including elementary schools). If students do not return to school buildings at the start of Trimester 2, the next decision point would be for the second half of the trimester, to be decided in January for a February 1 return date. We recognize that this change may provide a sense of reassurance to many staff and families, and a further challenge to families who are highly impacted by disruptions to the regular school schedule.

Second, while we are gearing up for the school year and preparing for staff to be back at work on-site, **some staff are able to perform most of their essential work remotely**, as they did this spring. We are in discussions with EEA about appropriate parameters for teachers and licensed specialists to largely **teach from home while students are off-site**.

Currently most other staff should expect to work on-site. There may be some exceptions where the district determines that they may effectively perform their essential functions from home. This is under further consideration. We also anticipate that some staff may be asked to perform different duties than usual in these unusual times.

Finally, teachers wishing to prepare for the school year in their classrooms can do so starting Monday, August 17, following established protocols including using the assigned entry/exit, signing in and out, maintaining hand hygiene, and wearing face coverings at all times when in common areas or around other people. (Face coverings are not required when working alone in your classroom or individual office.) If you have reason to access your classroom before then, or if you have questions about health and safety protocols, please contact your school administrator.

I want to share again the invitation to an optional online information session for staff later this week. Parent info sessions will be held as well, but this one is just for 4J staff, to give our team an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about our plans for returning to school this year.

Staff Info Session: Thursday, August 6, 2:30–3:30 p.m. — [Zoom link](#)

Our goal is to bring our students back to school safely when we can, but that will not be for some time yet. Online or on-site, together, we will provide the best education and care we can for all of our students—and for each other.

Take care and be well,

Cydney

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Cydney Vandercar
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