

# Oly COVID Communication

July 6, 2020

## What We Know at This Point...

After the Return to School guidance was released last week, we have some preliminary information we can share. Final approval of our return plan with regards to length of our school day and start times, will need to be Board approved. However, there are other details and plans that we have been working on that can be shared now.

Additionally, I have had multiple questions regarding what would happen if we didn't follow the State guidance so I have inserted some school governance questions and answers throughout this update.

There are parents and school officials across the state asking for more local control around the restrictions. Olympia has advocated to the governor, ISBE, IDPH and to Representatives and Senators about the need for more local control with regards to the guidance / restrictions. We will continue to advocate for a safe and practical return plan for our staff and students. The rules seem to be changing daily! We will do our best to keep you updated throughout the rest of the summer. We are ecstatic that our kids and staff will be able to return in August!

Laura O'Donnell, Superintendent

## We're Coming Back!

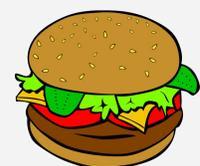
As we stated last week in our email to families, we are planning on face to face instruction resuming in August. Due to bussing limitations and restrictions, we will be proposing a 5.5 hour day for our students.

- Elementary PE will occur four days a week; music one day a week for 20 minutes.
- OHMS students will not be able to dress for PE but will still have PE & Music (although things will look a bit different in both of these courses).
- OHMS students will travel through their schedule as they normally would but will have specific traffic patterns to flow in hallways.
- Desks will be spaced and overflow areas will be used for large classes (libraries, empty rooms, cafe). Based on class size, some classes may be moved to larger spaces to ensure spacing can occur.



## How will breakfast and lunch be different given the COVID restrictions?

Olympia Food Service will continue to offer hot meals for both breakfast and lunch. We will be staggering students during lunch and utilizing the cafeterias, libraries, and other common areas to ensure appropriate social distancing and to stay within the 50 student limit (within one space).



# Plan for Instructional Gaps Due to COVID Closure

In May we asked teachers to report out on some key questions that will help with detailed grade level planning in the fall. The grid below was completed by elementary teachers. This detailed information has already been used in planning for August and will continue to be referenced as grade levels meet with each other to ensure we are filling in gaps and identifying appropriate starting skills / points for students. Additionally, our fall assessments will occur in September and will provide us with a comprehensive picture of student skill level so we can plan instruction and supports accordingly.

<b>Learning Targets/ Standards Planned</b> <i>(Limit to 5 critical targets/standards)</i>	<b>Learning Targets/ Standards Addressed</b>	<b>Instructional Delivery Method(s) Used</b>	<b>Student Data and Assessments</b>	<b>Level of Student Engagement</b> <i>Indicators may include attendance, task completion, participation, frequency of contact, etc.</i>	<b>Perceptions of the Impact on Students due to the Shift to Remote Learning</b> <i>What Went Well and What Was Challenging?</i>	<b>Social Emotional Learning Considerations</b>
<i>What content, skills, and objectives did you plan to address had the school year continued as normal?</i>	<i>What content, skills, and objectives were you able to cover during remote learning?  What was achieved through remote learning?</i>	<i>What instructional methods or practices were utilized (online lessons/meetings, recorded videos, conferencing, instructional packets, etc.)?</i>	<i>What data/artifacts do you have to demonstrate student mastery of content, skills and objectives?  How and to what extent did your assessment system change during the remote learning period?</i>	<i>To what extent were students engaged in remote learning?  Were different student groups more or less-well engaged during remote learning?  How do you know?</i>	<i>Which students, topics, skills, or other aspects were positively or negatively impacted by the shift?  In what ways were you able to capitalize on strengths and/or overcome challenges?</i>	<i>What social emotional needs of adults should be considered?  What social emotional needs of students or groups of students must be considered?</i>

Similar planning and data discussions have started with middle and high school departments. Those teachers are working closely together to address standards or skills that were missed or not taught as thoroughly given the mandated remote learning situation we were in this past spring. We know things were not business as usual and are prepared to adjust our curriculum to address these gaps. Additional support will be available after school as well.

## What would happen if a school district chose to disregard the mandates or executive orders from the Governor, IDPH or ISBE?

The Illinois Department of Public Health may close buildings **IF** there is a public health crisis OR if there are violations that put the public at risk. Disregarding mandates from the Governor or ISBE could put school funding at risk and also result in the school being closed as a result of being non-compliant.

## Does Board Policy (within a district) supersede mandates from ISBE, Governor's Office or IDPH?

Board policy is typically an extension of School Code language and frequently, local districts have some discretion to insert local parameters or procedures within recommended/required policies. However, any changes in law, executive orders or mandates may (or could) contradict local policies given that these may be unforeseen and/or temporary in nature. Mandates and executive orders from the Governor, supersede local district policy.

## Who Governs Public Schools?

The Illinois School Code clearly states that schools are legally obligated to follow directives of the Governor and the Illinois State Board of Education. In the case of COVID 19, ISBE and the Governor have been working in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to make decisions about school. Public schools are mandated to follow guidelines set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Mandates and executive orders around COVID related issues, are subject to change given infection rates, hospitalizations, etc.