



Willamina Elementary School

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August 2021

Greetings Willamina Elementary Families!

I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer! We are excited to welcome everyone back to school and clear up any questions you may have. As you are aware, changes in education in regards to health and safety are ongoing. As they change prior to school starting and during the course of the school year, we will do our best to update families as soon as possible, giving you as much information as we have.

Will students be returning to in-person learning?

Yes! Teachers and students will return to the classroom.

Will my child have to wear a mask?

At this point masks are mandatory for students and staff, as per the Governor's mandate for K-12 schools. They plan on reviewing data and metrics on a monthly basis and updating decisions throughout the school year depending on what happens with the virus. Students and staff will not have to wear a mask when outdoors or while eating breakfast or lunch. Teachers will also provide multiple mask breaks for students throughout the day. Students will also be required to wear a mask on the bus. Masks are available for students in the office/classroom. The Oregon Department of Education has created a FAQ specifically for masking questions and can be found at:

https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Schools%20and%20COVID-19%20FAQ.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Will school be full day?

We learned a lot about our students last year. One of the biggest lessons we learned was that our pre-pandemic school day was very long for elementary students (7 hours). We will be shortening our school day this year, while still meeting required seat time hours as mandated, going from **8:30 - 2:30 each day (6 hours)**. We will NOT be having Late Start Wednesday meetings any more, keeping the schedule the same throughout the week.

Is distance learning an option?

We had not planned on offering distance learning this year, as our strength and focus is on in-person learning. However, we realize that there are many families who are affected by the mask mandate and the rise in COVID - Delta variant cases. We aim to meet the needs of as

many families and students as possible and will be offering the Acellus program again during the school year. The Acellus program is done from home, all online. While there is a teacher that oversees the program, they are not responsible for direct instruction. Chromebooks will be available for checkout through the district for students participating in the Acellus program. More information about the program is available at www.acellus.com and is free of charge to parents and families through the Willamina School District.

What if I would like to put my child(ren) in an online charter school (i.e. Oregon Connections Academy, Oregon Virtual Academy, etc.)?

Any requests for an online charter school must be made through the Willamina School District Office and approved by Superintendent, Carrie Zimbrick. (503) 876-1500.

What if I want to homeschool my child?

Parents are welcome to homeschool their child(ren), however, you must notify the Willamette Education Service District. Failure to do so could result in compulsory attendance violations. Information and registration can be found here: <https://www.wesd.org/Page/91> as well as WESD offices in McMinnville and Salem.

When is the first day of school?

Tuesday, August 31st will be the first day of school for Willamina Elementary. Monday, August 30th will be Family/Teacher Conferences. The calendar that is on the website and given out during registration reflects the district, rather than the elementary school. Everything else on the calendar should be the same.

Will the school offer COVID testing?

The school will have rapid response testing available, but will NOT test a student without parental consent. Testing will be available for students who are showing symptoms or who have been directly exposed to a confirmed positive COVID case. Regardless of the results of the test, it is recommended that you seek a medical professional in case of a false positive or negative.

What is the school doing to keep students as safe and healthy as possible?

Teachers will provide direction and time to wash hands frequently and hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the building. Common touch areas and classrooms will be cleaned frequently as well. Visitor access to the building will be limited. Custodial staff will perform routine cleaning of all facilities and HVAC systems.

What is considered exposure to COVID?

Within the K-12 school setting, CDC and OHA have adopted a modification to this definition. When students are at least three feet apart and everyone is wearing a face covering,

students who are in close contact with someone with COVID-19 don't need to quarantine unless they have symptoms. This modification does not apply to adults in the school setting.

For more information:

Oregon Department of Education - Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Ready%20Schools%20Safe%20Learners%20Resiliency%20Framework%20for%20the%202021-22%20School%20Year.pdf>

Oregon Department of Education - COVID Resources for the 2021-2022 School Year:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx>