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Dear Families,

Hello and welcome to a new school year! Even though this is a different year than any of us most likely could have predicted less than a year ago, I'm excited and honored to be the principal at Gannett Peak Elementary. The last few months have been challenging times for all of us in varying ways, but one thing I can assure you is that our staff is dedicated to student learning at high levels and that students are well taken care of.

As we've already shared, we are planning to start school on August 25. We've implemented many safety measures at Gannett Peak including hand sanitizers in every room, individual desks and supplies, plexi-glass dividers to provide mask free learning throughout the day, and utilizing both the gym and cafeteria for breakfast and lunch times. Students will be required to wear masks inside the building to the greatest extent when social distancing isn't possible (hallway transitions, group time in the classroom, etc). Masks will be provided by the school if a child does not have one. Outside time such as recess, before and after school, is mask free time. Parents are encouraged to wear masks at pick-up time or maintain a physical distance from others. As we move forward, we are all going to have to be flexible during these coming months depending on the levels of the virus and potential for community spread.

Just a reminder student supplies (pencils, paper, erasers, folders, etc.) are provided for students. We will only have an in-person Open House on August 24 for kindergarten families from 4:30-6:30 and by appointment only for new families to the district; all other grade levels, including remote learning students, will have a virtual Open House for families. All teachers will be utilizing one communication app called *Bloomz*. Your child's teacher will be helping you set this up so two-way communication can occur frequently.

I want to close by saying, we need your help. As a school, we are responding diligently to this situation, and we are doing so by developing plans that follow official health guidance and our School Board directives. I know some of the things we are asking families to do are inconvenient, and I wish this wasn't our current state of affairs. As we are only days away from starting school, I'm asking that you work with your child on wearing a mask for short periods of time and reinforcing the need for them to wash their hands frequently. If we can all commit to these things now prior to the start of school, then this will be a benefit for all of us and have a big impact later. I, as well as all the Gannett Peak staff, look forward to making it a great year for our students.

Sincerely in Education,

Leslie Voxland, Principal