

# *Colville School District 115*

## *A Lifetime of Learning*

July 15, 2020

Greetings,

This letter is to update you regarding preparations for the opening of school on September 1, 2020, for the Colville School District. We have been working with our Reopening Task Force to develop plans for the fall for our district. Currently there are ten different subcommittees working to ensure a safe and successful opening. We appreciate your input from the last survey. Many things are still in a state of flux or are changing quickly. We will be required to submit a plan to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) by August 17; the template for submittal is expected to be released this week. We are planning on gathering additional survey information the week of July 20 to help us finalize our plans.

The past 120 days have been very challenging for us all. We have experienced a myriad of emotions, and we can't see an end in sight. We are a can-do community and school district. We will find a way to make it through this, and I am hoping we'll be better for it. We are certainly learning a considerable amount about ourselves, each other, the district and our community. I would not want to be any place else than Colville to address COVID 19.

Our focus on returning to school has centered on the following:

- Health and Safety for students and staff
- Flexibility; we will need to shift between instructional options quickly
- Continuous Learning; focus on students and their success

In a perfect world, we would open our buildings with all our students and staff without masks and have five full days of school each week. Based on current guidelines, the likelihood of that happening is still a ways off and we are planning on having several options for families for the fall. Current proposed options include:

- Creating a Hybrid Model that would include two cohorts of students—one that attends Monday and Tuesday, and one that attends Thursday and Friday. We would deep clean the buildings on Wednesday and allow staff to work on curriculum for work being completed at home on the days that the students are not attending school in person. We would also deep clean again on Friday.
- An option for students to work from home. This would allow students to work online/offline from home until they are ready to return to school. We also have an online Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) option through Panorama School.
- We are exploring ways to serve a portion of our highest need students four days a week on-site (M,T,Th,F).

Learning online/remotely can be challenging; we were forced into that situation in the spring. We were all doing something we had not done before. It wasn't easy, but we made it. We have been working hard to get better at delivering instruction remotely. Staff has been training and preparing so that

we have the flexibility to deliver instruction depending on what model we are utilizing for safety reasons.

This fall our K-12 Learning Management System will be Moodle, district wide. Moodle gives us both the online and offline capability needed to provide a quality equitable learning experience for all our students. Currently we have over 500 students who do not have reliable internet service, or no service at all and we need to make sure we can reach all our students to the very best of our abilities. We have moved Moodle to the cloud and worked to build systems of support to improve the experience. We struggled at times last spring due to the amount of use and the variability of the internet (K-20). We will be providing training to students, parents and staff this fall to increase overall knowledge and improve the experience so the focus is on student learning. In addition, if any student needs a Chromebook, we will have one available for them to use.

The expectation for school attendance is that both students and staff would be wearing masks. Specific information regarding masks can be found at [colsd.org](http://colsd.org); click on the Reopening Washington Schools 2020 link and go to page 20. If there are issues that preclude you from wearing a mask, please follow the protocol found on page 20 to make appropriate arrangements. We will also be social distancing throughout the day, trying to keep 6 feet of distance between people.

We will be working on making sure students are healthy each day when they come to school. We are developing a process for there to be an attestation by parents to make sure students are symptom free and do not have a fever. Staff will be screened as well. As stated earlier, we will be doing a deeper cleaning between cohorts of students, but we will also be disinfecting desks and touchpoints on a regular basis. If folks are sick, we want them to stay home.

On the transportation front, we are looking at eliminating transfer buses, providing additional fresh air to students, and using assigned seating. Buses will be disinfected daily.

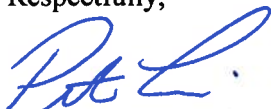
Childcare continues to be a concern, as we do not have adequate staff or space in all buildings to provide this option to families. We do not anticipate this will change between now and September 1, so please start to plan ahead.

Athletics are starting to work out in small cohorts of students. Please follow the guidelines found on the district website at [www.colisd.org](http://www.colisd.org).

One constant I have learned this spring is, "this is all subject to change." I wish I could snap my fingers and have everything ready to go... We will continue to plan and adjust as information becomes available. Our next communication should be a survey followed by a more formal plan in August.

I hope that you get some time to recharge this summer and in September we are ready to roll. Our desire is to provide a quality learning experience with high expectations while keeping everyone safe. Together we can make a difference. Let's rebuild it better.

Respectfully,



Pete Lewis  
Superintendent