



Palouse School District

600 East Alder Street * Palouse, WA 99161-8780 * Phone: (509) 878-1921

August 27, 2020

Dear Palouse Elementary School Families:

On August 24th, the Whitman County Department of Health announced that elementary schools could open for in-person instruction. On September 27, 2020, the Garfield and Palouse Boards decided that Palouse and Garfield Elementary Schools will open for in-person instruction on ***Tuesday, September 8, 2020***, with online/distant learning option available for those students and families choosing not to return to school.

We understand that this is a drastic turn of events, and a difficult decision for many families. As a district, we want our kids back in school and want to provide a meaningful educational experience for all of our families. We feel this decision will best meets the needs of our students and communities.

Middle School and High School students will remain in a distance-learning format starting ***Wednesday, September 2, 2020***, and will continue until we are allowed to bring them into the school for in-person instruction. We will continue to evaluate and follow state and local guidelines.

With that being said however, there are a few important details that must be followed for elementary students to come back in the building on Tuesday, September 8:

1. *Cloth face covering/Masks* will be worn in the building at all times.
* Families are responsible for providing cloth face covering/mask for their student(s).
2. All classrooms desks will be physically distanced at *6 feet spacing*.
3. Students will be grouped in cohorts, with their classroom teacher as much as possible.
4. All students will be screened by the school and classroom teacher daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including temperature checks.
5. Recesses will be staggered by classroom throughout the day.
6. Breakfast / Lunch will-be eaten in the classroom.
7. A Distance Learning option will be available for families who choose not to send their student(s) to school in-person.

We are excited to welcome our elementary students and families back to school for the 2020/2021 school year. Although this is an ever-changing situation, and adjustments will have to be made constantly, we look forward to getting back to work and teaching. Over the next few days, please visit our website and look for additional information on our reopening.

Please contact the Palouse School if you have any questions. Thank you for your on-going support for our school and students. Go Vikings!

Sincerely,
Mike Jones