

Orient School District No. 65

Hoping, Planning, Doing, Achieving

374 4th Ave., Orient, Washington, 99160

FAX: (509) 684-3469 Phone: (509) 684-6873

Dear Families of the Orient School,

As we are all aware, the rise in COVID-19 cases has led to a closure of all K-12 schools across our state. Classes will resume April 27th. There are so many questions. Here are a few answers:

Why did the state impose a state-wide closure on K-12 schools?

Although studies are showing people under the age of 18 are not facing as severe of health issues from this virus, they certainly can be carriers of the virus and infect those who are most at risk; people over the age of 60 and those with underlying health issues.

Part of the way this virus impacts a community is by overwhelming the health services that are available in a community—there are literally only so many hospital beds and respirators to go around. The state is working hard to slow the progress of the virus through the population so our services will not become overwhelmed all at once and everyone's health needs may be met. *We all have to work together to make this happen by staying home as much as possible to support each other in our state's effort to slow this virus down.*

Will there be school work sent home for students to do?

The teachers have selected workbooks that will be mailed home for each student. The workbooks contain work from all subject areas but were selected according to your child's math grade levels. These workbooks are meant for your child to work on at home. They will have an answer key for you to use to help you support your child's learning. We are not expecting the workbooks to be returned. That said, doing the work can only increase your child's knowledge and keep their skills sharp for when school opens again. We also encourage all students to read at least ½ hour a day. One great thing...you can order books online from the North Central Regional Library <http://www.ncrl.org> to be delivered right to your door. Returning the books is free!

If you need help at all with your child's work, please feel free to contact your child's teacher:

Sherry Cowbrough: (509) 675-5527 or sherry.cowbrough@orientdsd.org

Karen McCue (509) 288 2171 or karen.mccue@orientdsd.org

Gretchen Cruden (509) 738-4852 or gretchen.cruden@orientdsd.org

Cher Belcher (509) 684-1167 or cher.belcher@orientdsd.org

Nutrition Program

We are working on putting in place a nutrition program to provide breakfasts and lunches **FREE for all children in our district ages 0-18**. This includes all children, whether they are enrolled in our school or not. We will be delivering these meals via our school bus routes with additional

areas specified for small groups of families to be able to pick up the meals if that is more convenient. A reminder to families that have committed to participate in this program is that according to federal laws in place, your child **MUST** be present to get these meals. If you would like to participate and have not signed up, please contact the school at 684-6873. *There will be a lot more information to come about this program—be watching for it!*

What about the upcoming parent/teacher conferences?

We will not be holding spring parent/teacher conferences. They are cancelled for the 2019-2020 year. That said, if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

What about report cards?

The end of the quarter is March 26th. This is normally when report cards would be mailed out. This year, we will be rolling the grades earned during the third quarter over into a semester grade given only at the end of the year. There will be no grades posted for the third quarter and instead, these grades will be incorporated into the final semester grade.

What about the Read-to-Ride Program from Silverwood?

At this time, the program is still in place. Your child should read and be filling out their time log. When they have reached their ten hours of reading, please mail the log to the school so we can upload the information to the Silverwood Read-to-Ride Program's website. This program is only for K-6th grades. The school's address is 374 4th Avenue, Orient, WA 99160 **PLEASE NOTE: All forms must be AT the school by March 30th.**

What about state testing?

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reydkal has canceled state testing for the 2019-2020 school year. In our school, there will be no Smarter Balanced Assessments for grades 3rd through 8th nor any Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science for grades 5th or 8th.

How will we be contacted with any further information?

There are lots of channels we will be using to get information out to our families and the community. All new updates will be posted to our website at www.orientdsd.org and sent out through mailings. We have spent time collecting email addresses from families as well and will email out these updates. If you have not provided the school with an email address, please do so if you would like these notices via email. Lastly, we also know how important it is for the community that has supported us so strongly to be informed. With this in mind, we will be posting any updates at the Barstow Store in Barstow and Essentials General Store in Orient to help keep all of our community informed.

What are some things we can be doing at home to help our child adjust to this situation?

All children thrive on consistency. Consistent snack times, meals times and bedtimes go a long way toward reducing this stressful time for your child. Fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep your child's immune system functioning well too. Be sure to put a schedule in place that works for your family. Be sure to schedule in some fun too!

What's a good checklist of things to do next?

- Watch for your child's workbook and a letter from your teacher to arrive in the mail
- Watch for more information to come about the Nutrition Program
- Mail in your child's Read-to-Ride form-these must be at the school by March 30th
- Contact the school if you would like to participate in the Nutrition Program and have not signed up yet
- Stay in contact, please call or email if you have questions
- Stay home
- Wash your hands

Please know that we are here to support our students to the best of our ability during this time. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at school.

Orient Bobcats are problem solvers! We can do this!

Thank you,

The Orient School Staff

Orient School District provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to Sherry Cowbrough, Superintendent at 509-684-6873 or 374 4th Avenue, Orient, WA 99160