

Ingrid Colvard, Superintendent | PO Box 850 | Stevenson, WA 98648 | PH 509.427.5674 | FAX 509.427.4028 | www.scsd303.org

August 11, 2020

Dear Community,

I appreciate your support and patience as our team has developed the school reopening plan that best meets the needs of our community. More than anything, I hoped to recommend that we would welcome students to school buildings in some format. Unfortunately, that is not yet possible from a safety perspective. In conversations with our public health officer and Skamania County Health, we have been reviewing indicators such as the rate per 100,000 of newly diagnosed cases during the prior two weeks, the number of individuals tested for each new case during the prior week, and the percent of individuals testing positive for COVID-19 during the past week. This data, along with a decision guide for schools released last week by the Washington State Department of Health, indicates that our current virus transmission rates are still too high to support learning in person.

The SCSD Board of Directors approved a plan in the special meeting last night to begin our school year in a remote only status for all grade levels. Families will have the choice to follow our phased learning model or engage in a virtual learning experience through the Stevenson-Carson Learning Link that is developed for enrollment lasting at least a semester. We want to see these indicators start trending towards reduced numbers of cases in the community in order to start bringing groups of students back on campus. We do not want to bring students and staff back on campus and then see high numbers of increased cases.

Learning Delivery Models Stages

- 1. Remote Learning all students participate in distance learning
- 2. Remote Learning transitioning to Blended Learning students identified through a set of district/school developed criteria in greatest need of additional support participate onsite with in-person instruction.
- 3. Blended Learning all students participate onsite with in-person instruction a minimum of two (2) days a week. Transition to more on-campus days for students as conditions improve.
- 4. On-Campus Learning all students and staff participate onsite with in-person instruction five (5) days a week.



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Later this week you will receive a survey regarding your educational model preferences, internet/broadband access, availability of electricity, and child care concerns. In partnership with the Skamania School District, we are exploring options for expanding child care in our community. Additionally, our district will continue to provide nutrition services to students in all phases of our return, although it may look a bit different than last spring. More information will be coming soon regarding signing up for nutrition support.

Task force work groups have been collaborating to address many of the concerns and challenges that were part of the remote learning experience last spring. The state is referring to the coming fall experience as "Remote Learning 2.0", which is much more robust and consistent. Attendance will be required, students will receive grades, and communication and staff/student engagement expectations will be clarified. We will need your partnership and feedback, but we can be confident that the learning from the past will make this next year a positive experience for all involved.

Many decisions will be made in the coming days, and you can expect communication from building principals starting August 19th. Answers to many questions depend on enrollment in our two options, which will allow for developing schedules and assigning staff. The district website will be continually updated as new information is available, and you can find a "Reopening Info" button on our home page that will link to documents and information, including an FAQ sheet that addresses many concerns. Surveys will come in email format to be certain all families are included in communication.

I am honored and grateful to represent our community during these unprecedented times. It is inspiring to be a part of a team of families, community members, students, and staff that will do whatever it takes to care for our children well. We will come together in the buildings just as soon as it is advisable, and I cannot wait to celebrate that day together!

Warm Wishes,

Ingrid