

March 31, 2020

Dear Oregon Trail Families,

Late Monday evening, March 30, the Oregon Department of Education released new Extended School Closure guidelines, directing every district to provide **Distance Learning** opportunities for all students. This is a change from the previous guidelines for **Supplemental Learning** that districts have prepared for. We have been navigating the constant updates from the state since mid-March. We are doing everything we can to address them while creating opportunities for our students to continue learning in these challenging times.

We understand how difficult this crisis has been for families, on so many fronts. Throughout this event, we will remain sharply focused on one outcome – helping children thrive.

Our **Distance Learning** plan will roll out by April 13, and we will provide updates as that time approaches. In the meantime, please continue to access our online supplemental learning resources. For those families who need printed learning packets, they will be available for parent pickup Wednesday, April 1, from 2:00-7:00 PM at each of our K-8 schools. You will receive more information about this from your school principal.

What is Distance Learning, and how does it differ from Supplemental Learning?

Supplemental Learning keeps students engaged in learning activities that help maintain their academic skills. The materials are optional and are not graded.

Distance Learning, for the purposes of the guidance we received from the Oregon Department of Education, is defined as instruction in which the student and instructor are in different locations. It supports a process for students to receive ongoing interaction with their teacher. For OTSD schools, we anticipate this interaction will occur mainly through Google Classroom, but it could also include paper packets, online experiences and/or phone conversations. Student work may be assessed and will count toward student progress.

Moving forward

Teachers have been contacting parents over the past two days to discuss learning options and digital access needs. Next week we will begin distributing Chromebooks and/or internet hotspots for those families who requested them. Watch for further details on this.

We have yet to receive graduation guidance from the Oregon Department of Education. Guidance for our seniors and graduation is expected early April. We will share the guidance when it is released and provide our seniors with a path forward.

Our team has been working diligently to overcome the obstacles presented by this new direction. We appreciate your continued patience and perseverance during this time. Please reach out to us if there is any assistance we may provide for you and your family.

Be well,

Aaron C Bayer
Superintendent.