

Dear Cashmere School District families,

A big thanks to all of you for working closely with us to provide the best possible education for our students over the past three months. We truly appreciate your effort, support and grace as we navigated these unprecedented times.

The much-anticipated guidelines for return to school in the fall were just released by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) yesterday. These recommendations were developed in close collaboration with the state Department of Health and Governor Inslee's office.

General principles in the guidance include that school will resume in the fall, either via in-person instruction or through a hybrid learning model involving a rotating schedule and/or an enhanced form of distance learning. The decision about which option works best for a school district will be left up to the school district to decide, as long as health department guidelines are followed. The OSPI guidance also instructs districts to promote social distancing, screen for illness, wear face coverings and promote good hygiene practices in order to limit the spread of the virus. You can view the full guidance issued by OSPI [here](#).

The Cashmere School District's plan is to thoroughly review the guidelines, solicit feedback from you and work with our leadership team to develop a local plan for our schools based on the state's recommendations.

Here is what we know so far:

- Our guiding principles from the start of this pandemic have not wavered. The health and safety of our students and staff while continuing to provide a quality education during these unprecedented times is our number one priority.
- The guidance gives more flexibility to districts, which we are grateful for. Our plan will prioritize the safety of our community, deliver the best education we can and maximize in-person instruction while maintaining compliance with local and state health requirements.
- We understand that some families may not be comfortable sending their children back to a school facility in the fall, so we are working hard to further develop our distance learning plan and resources.
- We will be seeking input and feedback from our stakeholders before final decisions will be made for the fall. We will also include contingency plans should they be needed in the event of a case of COVID-19 is diagnosed at one of our schools.

We have joined other districts from across the state in advocating to Governor Inslee for a return to in-person instruction this fall, while working closely with local and state health partners to ensure safety for students and staff and adherence to the Washington State Safe Start Plan.

Please know that our number one priority is always the health and safety of our students and staff. This priority will be at the heart of every decision we make. As we begin planning for the fall, we are committed to soliciting feedback from you as we work with our leadership team to develop a plan that puts students first. We intend to share our plan with you once things are finalized. Thank you for your patience, we promise to stay in close communication with you throughout the process.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy and we will be in touch with more information soon.

Sincerely,

Glenn Johnson