

March 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is March already and a year has passed since the start of our COVID protocols. I am so thankful that Sisters Elementary School is one of only 20% of schools in Oregon that is open for in-person learning. I am so grateful to our families and staff who have worked SO HARD to follow all of the guidelines to keep our students safe and healthy while learning in our building. As we look at the data, we are encouraged by the academic progress our students have made this year in the midst of the worldwide crisis. Additionally, our students have gained so many amazing skills such as resilience, grit, and flexibility that will help them in future years.

The state of Oregon has not heard yet about whether the federal government will grant a waiver to allow our state to opt out of the Smarter Balanced Assessment for our 3rd and 4th graders. We will be informing our families as soon as our state hears. If we have to provide the assessment to our CDL and SEO students, we will expect your student to come into the building to take the assessments. If you would like to opt your student out of the state assessment, in the event that this is required, the deadline is March 19, 2021 for us to receive your opt out form. If you would like to opt your student out of the testing, please contact your child's teacher or the front office and we will send a form home. Please see attached for more information. [2020-21 30 Day Notice for Statewide Tests.pdf](#) [2020-21 30 Day Notice for Statewide Tests Spanish.pdf](#)

I am reaching out to ask you for your help in supporting the safety of our Sisters community. We are having several parents arriving early in the morning to drop off your students, creating an unsafe traffic hazard on highway 20 and surrounding streets. The earliest that your child can exit their vehicle is 8:25 AM as there is not supervision prior to that time. Even if you arrive at 8:15 your child won't be able to enter the school until 8:25. Please plan to arrive no earlier than 8:22 into our parking lot so that we can be good neighbors to our community. Also, as a reminder, we have arrival windows to prevent back up out of the parking lot. Please look at the following times and make sure your child is arriving at the appropriate time. Students arrive with the oldest sibling. If you arrive before your time, our staff may ask you to go back and reenter the line at the appropriate time.

- 8:25-8:35 3rd and 4th grade students and siblings (8:35 Tardy bell)
- 8:35-8:45 2nd grade students (8:45 Tardy bell)
- 8:45-8:55 Kindergarten and 1st grade students (8:55 Tardy bell)

One other way that you can partner with us and support your student's success is by making sure that your student is completing their iReady Math and Lexia minutes each week. These can be spaced out through the week or completed on Friday mornings. Each of these programs have an individualized learning pathway for your student to address gaps or to accelerate them. Students who are consistent in their Lexia and iReady are showing the most academic growth on our assessments. Each week we are honoring the class at each grade level with the best percentage of minutes completion for both iReady Math and Lexia. We also honor the school champion class. Mr. Warburton's class has become the class to beat, winning almost every week. Let's give them some competition!

To replace our Principal Coffees, I will be hosting a parent Zoom meeting once a month from 12:00–1:00 PM. I will be hosting this month's meeting on Tuesday, March 16. Grab your lunch and join me for a conversation where I will share updates, have a Q and A session and provide an opportunity for parent feedback and input.

Please use the following link to join the Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86458101446?pwd=OE1rRGEZcWpzdXY5KzBaaitQNjhKQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 5810 1446 Passcode: 6X2p9h

Spring Break Travel: in order to keep us all safe and healthy, please consider the governor's guidelines for quarantining after travel.

March/April Schedule Information:

- **Tuesday, March 16** **12:00-1:00 Principal Connect Parent Zoom**
- **March 22 – April 1** **Spring Break**
- **April 5** **Return to learning from Spring Break**
- **April 20** **12:00-1:00 Principal Connect Parent Zoom**

Bend Science Station: We have been fortunate to have all of our 1st-4th graders go to Bend Science Station to experience hands-on science activities and experiments. We appreciate the anonymous donor and the Sisters Science Club for your generosity in providing these experiences for our students. We have adjusted schedules to enable extra staff to attend as we have not been able to take parent chaperones this year.

Seed 2 Table: We are excited to collaborate once again with Seed 2 Table to provide educational learning and experiences here at school and at the farm this spring. We appreciate their organization's willingness to help with chaperonage for our older students to continue these opportunities for our students.

Thank you for your partnership. It is truly an honor and privilege for us to serve you and your children. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care.

We appreciate and welcome your input and feedback.

Joan Warburg Principal, Sisters Elementary School