



NORTH CLACKAMAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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NCCS Parents,

Thank you for your patience as we find ourselves in yet another time of having to respond (to the State of Oregon) regarding the COVID-19 health emergency. I ask you to read this message fully, as well as watch the video linked below within this communication.

This week, Gov. Brown announced that she was giving a further directive to schools (all schools in Oregon, public and private), that they would be required to follow in order to open this year, now additionally based on [County and State COVID data metrics](#). This news came as a complete surprise to me and other school leaders. The requirements (from Gov. Brown) for all schools to open On-Site are as follows, and come directly from ODE guidance on this directive:

County Metrics - metrics to be met three weeks in a row:

- Case rate: ≤ 10 cases per 100,000 population in the preceding 7 days*
- Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days - **and** -

State Metric - metric to be met three weeks in a row

- Test positivity: $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days

Exceptions:

The following exception should be prioritized, provided that:

- COVID-19 is not actively spreading among the school community;
- The case rate in the county is < 30 cases per 100,000 population in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks;
- The test positivity in the county is $\leq 5\%$ in the preceding 7 days for the past three weeks; and
- Schools fully comply with sections 1-3 of the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance.

Exceptions: Providing in-person education for students in kindergarten through third grade. It is expected that schools will offer in-class options for students in grade K-3 to the extent possible. Younger students get the virus at lower rates, get less sick when they get COVID-19, and seem to spread the virus less than older children or adults. Younger students also need access to in-person instruction to build literacy and numeracy skills critical to their continued learning.



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The [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#) for schools was changed with Tuesday's press conference. All private schools had, in good faith, spent time, money, and committed to teachers and school families based on the information that we were able to choose the instructional model that was best for our school community and could open for on-site instruction if we completed Sections 1-3 (out of 8 sections) of the Operational Blueprint for Reentry and followed our plan. NCCS selected to move forward with Option 1-On-Site Instruction. The justification used by ODE for (private) schools to comply with this new directive was taken from Section 5 - a section we, as a private school, are not held accountable to complete.

The shift to distance learning, just mandated with the metrics, does not come with any funds from ODE to private schools to implement (for technology, equipment, online systems for distance learning, etc...) - unlike the promise to our public school counterparts. This decision could financially devastate private schools, given the impact of these increased costs. I only share this with you to give you that lens to see where we are in our commitment to move forward. We need you, and want to put all we have into providing the absolute best for our students in the 2020-21 school year! If you feel led, and are able to support our efforts, please let us know. God has put us in a financially stable situation for a normal year, we rejoice in that. These extra expenses are above and beyond, any help given is greatly appreciated.

We are committed to be here for our students, parents, and staff, no matter what the state sends our way. While we are disappointed that our choice of how to open has been taken from us, we will continue to move ahead with the school year. We will do so with integrity, innovation, and determination to fulfill the mission of NCCS! I am excited about what is being developed to make our school a Christian education experience like no other.

I have created [a short video](#) to give some details to how we will be doing school in light of what I have just shared. There will be more information coming through next week (and the weeks to come) as we work out details in our planning. Along with those details, I am going to be asking for feedback through surveys, as a whole and also for specific populations within our school. Please take time to give us your feedback and know we will use that information as we develop our plans.

Please enjoy the rest of the summer months and know that we are here for you. We will continue to care for you, our students, and staff. We are asking God to guide our plans and protect our community. Let's stick together, and give God the glory for the good things HE is doing as we stay true to HIS ways.

In His Love,
Sherri

Ephesians 3:19-21...and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen