June 20, 2020

Families of

South Columbia Family School

Warren, OR 97053

Dear Families:

As you are surely aware, the 2019 – 2020 school year was a challenging one for all schools, having to resort to strictly distance learning. Although we will be able to reenter the 2020 – 2021 year with our traditional format, due to COVID-19, there are some critical changes. These changes are being regulated by the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority. We need to be ensured that these requirements are followed for the safety of our students and staff.

First of all, we have to provide a school environment that is safe for our students. This involves two components: hygiene and social distancing. Therefore, the following changes are going to be in effect.

1. Students will be screened upon entry. They will then be required to use hand sanitizer at the entrance to each classroom.
2. Parents are to drop of children at the proper entrance door for their child’s classroom.
3. Any adult entering the school will be required to have a face covering (mask or face shield).
4. The family room has been made into our sick room in case of an ill child.
5. SCFS, due to the need for social distancing, will operate Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We have to maintain 35 square feet per person in the room with six feet separation. This, along with full classes, mandates this change.
6. It is highly recommended that students wear masks, but it is not a requirement. Due to the availability and cost, we cannot provide a disposable mask for each child every day.
7. Students are to bring only school essentials. No toys, stuffed animals, or other items that are not school-related will be permitted.
8. If we have a case of COVID-19 in one of our students or staff, we will follow the Columbia County Public Health Department’s guidelines.
9. If necessary, we will revert to distance learning, based on guidelines. This could be temporary or for the remainder of the year, based on the Public Health Department’s guidelines.
10. **Please do not send children to school if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19**. For symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
11. Families may not get their choice of days for community days due to these extraordinary situations. We will make every effort to put siblings on the same day, but it may not be possible.
12. Please be patient with us as we adjust, too, to this new format.

SCFS is in the process of adding a page on its website that includes our Communicable Disease Management Plan, our Operational Blueprint for Reentry, and other important information. A map showing location for student arrival and departure is included. Later, a FAQ page will be added. Here is the link to the page:

<https://www.scfamilyschool.net/emergency-plan-response-to-covid-19>

We are making every effort to ensure safety for students and staff. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ray Brown, Principal

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