



**Crane Schools**  
**43277 Crane-Venator Rd**  
**Crane, OR 97732**  
**(541)-573-4237**

August 12, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Staff,

Yesterday, at 3:00 pm, the state released its final “Ready Schools, Safe Learners” guidance. Under the new guidance, I am very pleased to announce that Crane Schools will be able to open its doors to all students and staff. We will be able to provide person to person instruction to all students who choose to attend school onsite. We will operate on our traditional four day schedule for all students. There will be safety health guidelines that will have to be followed but we are grateful to have the opportunity to open. It will be **mandatory for all students and staff to wear a proper face covering and social distance as defined in the state guidance and in our schools [operational blue prints](#)**.

Crane Schools are also offering a Comprehensive Digital Learning program as well. For those families that choose to take advantage of the digital learning component, we will provide more detail about this component in future communications.

On the attached [“Educational Choice” SignNow form \[click here to fill out required form\]](#), We are asking that all families complete and identify the educational option you plan to enroll your student in for the first **9 weeks** of school. We need to have this information returned by next Tuesday, August 18th so that we can best prepare both our onsite learning and our digital learning programs. This commitment will be for the first **9 weeks** of learning as it will not be conducive for student learning to have students going from one model to the next.

I can’t express how excited we are to see our students and staff back in Crane Elementary and Crane Union High School. The safety and health of our students and staff will always be our top priority in these unprecedented times. Our schools [operational blue prints are attached](#) and they identify all of the guidance, health and cleaning protocols we have established and have had approved by the Harney County Local Health Authority. Below are some highlighted points of communication:

- School will start on Wednesday, August 26th. Buses will be at the Senior Center at 6:45AM. Bus protocols will be established and the drivers will communicate that on the first morning of school.
- All students and staff will be **required** to wear a face covering. A mask, bandana, face shield or other face covering is mandatory and not optional. Those choosing to not follow the guidance will be required to enroll in the distance learning program.
- The state matrix for re-opening is attached. It clearly states that Harney County must remain under 30 covid cases in a three week time period to remain open. Please see below:

## **5) School-wide for low population density counties with a population density of <6 people per square mile**

- Applies to: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler
  - Schools may choose to work with local public health officials in low population density counties to return to in-person instruction if the following conditions are met:
    - Total county COVID-19 cases in the last three weeks is  $\leq 30$ , with less than half of cases (or  $\leq 5$  cases) reported in the last week of the three-week period.
    - The school fully complies with sections 1-3 of the Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance and students cannot be part of any single cohort, or part of multiple cohorts that is  $> 50$  people.
    - The Local Public Health Authority indicates: There is not community spread in the school catchment area.
    - There is not community spread in the communities that serve as the primary employment and community centers (for shopping and other in-person services) and the school is isolated by a significant distance from communities reporting COVID-19 community spread in the previous three weeks.
- In considering community spread, public health should take into consideration the cases in the community, COVID-19 test availability in the community, recent percent positivity of tests, capacity in the community to respond to cases and outbreaks and the regional hospital capacity available for those with severe disease.
- The school does not serve a significant number of transfer students from outside its catchment area that are from communities reporting COVID-19 community spread in the previous three weeks.
  - Cohort groups will be established in both Crane Elementary and Crane High School. These cohorts will consist of  $< 50$  students.
  - In the near future, times will be established for families to pick up chromebooks and materials for Comprehensive Distance Learning. Please look for communication.
  - The Dorms at Crane Union High School will be open. Dorm Check in will be Tuesday, August 25th starting at 6:00 pm. Further information will follow about check-in.

The 2020-2021 school year will be unlike any school year we have ever experienced. However, we are committed to providing your child the best education possible. This year will require flexibility and all of us working together to ensure that we can provide students the safe, caring, learning environment they deserve. We are truly excited to welcome students back to school and appreciate your understanding and patience during these times. You will be receiving updates and communication from our schools frequently now that we have been provided the guidance on how we can open.

Respectfully,

Matthew Hawley  
Superintendent

Eric Nichols  
Principal/Director