



Orchard Prairie School District

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A MESSAGE TO OUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS FROM MS. SAVALL

I am looking forward to the up-coming **2021-2022** school year, continuing the work of leading a positive, professional and collaborative staff in a building full of competent and capable learners. We will continue our work to create authentic learning opportunities for our students through rigorous academic work and to encourage creative thinking.

We are not where we would like to be with the COVID mitigations and mask mandates, but we are closer to a normal school year than we were last year! As we prepare to welcome students back to school, our priority is to offer a learning environment that fosters relationships and engagement. In order to provide the best possible educational experience, Orchard Prairie will only offer in-person instruction. Recently, the Washington Department of Health released updated requirements for school reopening. These requirements are intended to ensure that schools can offer safe, in-person instruction despite the resurgence of COVID.

Orchard Prairie will adhere to the requirements of the Washington Department of Health now and throughout the year. These requirements apply equally to private schools, and are mandated by law through the authority of the Governor. [We invite you to read these requirements in full](#), and we have provided key highlights below:

- For the start of the school year masking is required indoors regardless of vaccination status. **Masking is not required outdoors.** If a student has a medical exemption from wearing a face mask, they may apply for an accommodation from a physician to wear a face shield instead.
- 100% of all staff are fully vaccinated.
- At this time, **no daily attestations are required**, however the expectation is that families will continue to complete temperature checks and health screening to monitor for any sign of illness. If you have questions about potential symptoms, call or email Heather or Kelli, our school nurse. All emails are posted on our website orchardprairieschool.org.
- The Department of Health advises 12 year old students to be vaccinated in order to promote individual and public health. Vaccination provides students the very best opportunity to avoid interruptions to attending classes.
- Unvaccinated students who are in close contact with an infected person will be required to quarantine or participate in COVID test screening. Testing negative will enable a student to remain in classes.
- Vaccinated students who are in close contact with an infected person will not be required to quarantine. Proof of student vaccination will need to be provided to the school.
- The school will accommodate students who are absent due to illness or quarantine by providing packets and math and reading on-line assignments.

Within the next two weeks the school will send additional information regarding COVID protocols for the start of the year.

We are pleased to participate in the Seamless Summer Option Program this year and offer a free breakfast and lunch for **all students, beginning September 8th**. The parent/student Handbook will provide additional information on the program.

Our first event of the new school year will be a **Kindergarten through 7th grade Open House** on **Monday, August 30th**. The intent of the open house is to allow children and their parents/guardians to meet their teachers, drop off school supplies, see the classroom, and where the student will be seated. It is not a time to share concerns with the teacher. If there is a need, we encourage all families to make an appointment to discuss topics privately with the teacher. **Unfortunately, we can not have all families arrive at the same time and visit classrooms, due to parking and the 3 foot distance recommendation. If possible for our families, we would like families with Kindergarteners, 1st graders, 3rd graders, and 5th graders to arrive at 5:30 and go to the classroom. Weather permitting, immediately following the teacher visit, find a seat on the playground for my Superintendent's welcome, and an opportunity for families to ask questions and enjoy Dixie Cup Sundaes. At 6:00, families with 2nd graders, 4th graders, 6th & 7th graders will go into classrooms. When finished we ask that the families go to the playground where Ms. Savall will speak to families again and ice cream will be served. For families with more than one child, please drop in anytime between 5:30p.m. – 6:15p.m. All adults and students attending, are required to wear a mask when in a building for Open House.**

It is our sincere hope that you will be well informed about your child's education. Again, this year every student will receive an Orchard Prairie communication folder on the first day to bring information to and from school. Weekly or Monthly newsletters from classroom teachers will be sent home. We request all families to check the folders **every day and your email regularly**. Our weekly newsletter, the Prairie Dog Post, is sent out every Monday evening. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school at **467-9517**. We will be happy to assist you. I am confident this will be a fantastic year for all of us.

Attendance daily at school is a key to future success. Please have your child arrive at school on time, every day and remain the full day, to allow maximum learning. When students arrive late or leave early, it disrupts everyone's learning. Good attendance enables students to develop the skills required to secure future employment while enhancing their self-esteem and building positive relationships. **School hours are 8:40 to 3:15**. If there is a necessity to pick your child up early, please call the school by **1:30**.

With Warm Regards,
Suzanne Savall, Superintendent
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