

December 29, 2020

Dear BSD Families,

I hope everyone is enjoying the break from school and getting a chance to relax and unwind.

### **Governor's Announcement December 23rd**

Governor Brown announced last week new policies that will assist school districts in safely returning students to in-person instruction much sooner than expected. The state metrics will be changed in a way that allows individual school districts to work directly with county health officials in determining when it is safe for students to return to school.

As we communicated prior to the break, we are using January as a planning and preparation month for more students to return in the coming weeks. There are many factors that need to be in place in order for us to return a large number of students to in-person instruction. Transportation, staffing, and training of staff in health and safety protocols will be our focus in January.

We are planning to return some of our students to limited in-person instruction (LIPI) and to resume athletics when we return from winter break. Administrators, teachers, and coaches will be communicating with you our plans as we return next week.

Even with the Governor's announcement with wanting to return students to school, there are still guidance and protocols in place around student and staff safety. We have to continue to follow the Ready School Safe Learners guidance. Metric guidance is now advisory and not mandatory. However, we are still being advised by Washington County Health when it is safe to return and the metric guidance is still something we need to focus on. We are expecting an updated metric guidance in mid-January from Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority that will hopefully allow us to return more students in February.

### **Snow Days This Year**

We wanted to update you on snow days for this year. After several conversations with administration and teacher leadership, we have decided to have snow days this year. What does this mean? In a typical year, snow days are made up at the end of the year. Being in on-line learning this year, there was the potential to have on-line classes continue even during inclement weather. However, after several discussions, we have several staff members that do not have quality internet access at home and come into the school daily. This would also be true for students if there is inclement weather. Also, we have the ability to make up days at the end of the year where we are hoping we will be back in school fully by that time and it will be more beneficial for our students to make days up in-person. Snow days will be a great day for students to unwind, catch up on work, and play in the snow.

We will continue to update you during the month of January as we are updated by Oregon Department of Education. I know this is a frustrating time for all of us and for our students. We

look forward to having them back in school soon and in a safe and healthy environment. We continue to work on safety protocols, air quality measures, and cleaning protocols.

Please enjoy the remainder of the break and be well.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leo  
Superintendent