

# School District of Ashland

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Dear Oredocker Families,

We continue to be very proud of and grateful for the way our community is coming together during this public health emergency.

Our dedicated teachers and staff are working hard to serve our students and families. This week, we implemented a meal service delivery program and had teachers and counselors check in with families. We are also establishing a vision for what distance learning will look like.

While much work has been done since spring break, there is still much to do to make sure there is consistency within teams, among schools, and across the district before we can launch a clearly defined plan for distance learning. This is a huge undertaking. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

I am pleased to share the following highlights and planned next steps with you.

## MEAL SERVICE

This week was our first week of meal distribution. Kitchen staff from the entire district gathered at the high school Monday and Tuesday, packing 1,339 meal bags. We teamed-up with custodians, shipping and receiving, and district staff to distribute meals at three sites. We look forward to continuing to provide this service and are grateful for everyone who is helping out.

Moving forward, meal pick-up will be as follows:

- **Mondays:** Ashland High School 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Tuesdays:** Marengo Valley Elementary School 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Birch Hill Community Center 12-3 p.m.; Ashland High School 4-6 p.m.

If you would like to request meals for children under the age of 18 in your household, please use the following link to do so: [School Closure - Child Meal Order Form](#).

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Educational Delivery Model

Thank you to parents for your hard work creating at-home schedules for your children and engaging them in new routines. Our teachers have been working to connect with you to share activities and ideas of activities to engage in while we work to provide additional guidance in the weeks to come. We continue to work closely with the Department of Public Instruction to develop the best solutions for our students while our schools remain closed.

Below, you will find information on the current and next phases of our educational delivery plan:

- **Phase I:** Teams of teachers, coaches and administrators are working together virtually to develop a vision for learning as we move forward. This includes online and material distribution platforms to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities. This week, teams have been sharing example routines, schedules, and activity ideas for students, while also reaching out to families and students.
- **Phase II (March 30-April 3):** While we work to distribute technology to families this week, we have developed Google Sites to be added to our district website. These sites have been shared with staff, who will work next week to place more guidance on how to use these sites for distance learning.
- **Phase III (April 6-10):** Sites will be accessible on April 6 for families (included in these sites will be the access for Google Classrooms that you may have received information on from teachers). Each grade level at the elementary,

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middle, and high school site will be available. Every Monday morning, teachers will ensure that these sites are updated with a weekly schedule.

- **Phase IV (April 13-Beyond):** Materials and resource distribution will reach families that do not have access to the sites. Additional planning will continue regarding topics of content, virtual learning, assessment, and more.

*Please note that these dates are subject to change pending our readiness and infrastructure needs.*

### **Grading/Graduation**

We will not have third-quarter grades. We are looking at ways to roll quarters 3-4 together, which is contingent on further guidance from the state. We are aware of the impact grades have for high school student transcripts and are working to find the best solution.

For families of our seniors, we know how important the upcoming months are as graduation approaches. With many unknowns about the duration of school closures, we continue to plan for graduation with the hopes that we will all be back together by then. We will continue to keep you updated.

### **Technology Distribution**

We recognize there are opportunities for students to engage from home in their learning if they are provided the proper technology. We will [send out information](#) today regarding times for technology pickup at the middle school, Lake Superior Elementary and Marengo Valley School, which will take place the week of March 30. If you are unable to make the designated technology pick-up times, please call our Chromebook pick-up hotline at 715-682-7826.

### **Materials and Resource Distribution**

As staff continue to develop learning opportunities for students, we recognize the technology and Wi-Fi barriers many families are facing. We are creating a process for the distribution of materials and resources to support families from their homes.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **School Counseling and Mental Health Support**

During the upcoming weeks of home-based learning, our dedicated student services staff want to assure students and families that they are here for you. School-level communications will continue to provide specific resources and support for our families. Online enrichment opportunities will include social and emotional learning ideas and resources.

Counselors are available to assist with academic, social/emotional, and academic/career planning needs for our students.

### **Special Education**

We have been closely following federal and state-level guidance related to supporting students with disabilities during school closures. Our special education teachers will continue to provide services in a flexible and virtual manner that honors the social distancing recommendations from the CDC. The special education team is collaborating closely with general education staff to ensure that supplementary aids and services through Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) are provided to the greatest extent possible.

Our teachers and service providers have reached out to the parents/guardians of all students on their caseloads to initiate a conversation about services, resources and other supports that might be recommended or available to families. We will continue to hold IEP meetings virtually and over the phone. We will be postponing or extending timelines on formal evaluations that require face-to-face assessment.

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

It is not yet clear if we will be able to resume co-curricular activities this spring. Below is a quick update from the WIAA regarding athletics: *"The WIAA Board decided to postpone any decision to cancel the spring sports seasons and the spring State Tournament Series until a later date. This position is consistent with the current state and local guidelines, as well as advice from the Sports Medical Advisory Committee. A clearer position may unfold as developments arise and new information becomes available."*

Now is a good time to take the advice of legendary Coach John Wooden, who said: "Do not let what you cannot do stop you from doing what you can." We encourage all students to maintain a healthy routine, stay active while being safe, stay busy and stay positive. A positive attitude leads to positive thinking, and positive thinking is the foundation for positive results.

## COMMUNICATION

The District created a [coronavirus web page](#), where you can find the latest updates and information. On this web page, you will also find the [School District of Ashland Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Community FAQ](#). (Please note that the FAQs are in progress and are being continually updated.)

### Points of Contact

If you have questions or need support, please use the following points of contact. We strongly encourage you to use email at this time. If you call the phone numbers below, please be sure to leave a voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

<b>Lake Superior Elementary School</b> <b>Lake Superior Learning Community</b> <i>Contact with technology needs, staff communication, access to school materials/resources, logistics of the calendar events.</i>	Principal Mark Getz <a href="mailto:mgetz@sdak12.net">mgetz@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7085 ex. 3001  Principal Chris Graff <a href="mailto:cgraff@sdak12.net">cgraff@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7085 ex. 4501
<b>Marengo Valley Elementary</b> <i>Contact with technology needs, staff communication, access to school materials/resources, logistics of the calendar events.</i>	Principal Angie Parduhn <a href="mailto:aparduhn@sdak12.net">aparduhn@sdak12.net</a> (715) 278-3286 ex. 5004
<b>Ashland Middle School</b> <i>Contact with technology needs, staff communication, access to school materials/resources, logistics of the calendar events.</i>	Principal Jake Levings <a href="mailto:jlevings@sdak12.net">jlevings@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7087 ex. 2001
<b>Ashland High School</b> <b>Lake Superior High School</b> <b>Oredocker Project School</b> <i>Contact with technology needs, staff communication, access to school materials/resources, logistics of the calendar events.</i>	Principal Brian Trettin <a href="mailto:btrettin@sdak12.net">btrettin@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7089 ex. 1001
<b>Food Service</b> <i>Contact with questions about the Food Service schedule and locations.</i>	Director Amanda Tutor <a href="mailto:atutor@sdak12.net">atutor@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7080 ex. 1022
<b>Special Education Services</b> <i>Contact with questions about your child's special education needs and services, accommodations, and supports.</i>	Director Dani Mikula <a href="mailto:dmikula@sdak12.net">dmikula@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7080 ex. 6003
<b>Curriculum &amp; Instruction Office</b> <i>Contact with questions about content of learning, state and local assessments, and instructional guidance.</i>	Director Amanda Popovich <a href="mailto:apopovich@sdak12.net">apopovich@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7080 ex. 6004
<b>District Administrative Office</b> <i>Contact with questions not related to any other topic and not covered in other communication.</i>	Michelle Vuorenmaa <a href="mailto:mvuorenmaa@sdak12.net">mvuorenmaa@sdak12.net</a> (715) 682-7080 ex. 6009

In these times of uncertainty, we will continue to adapt based on new information as it unfolds. Please expect further information as we finalize plans in the days to come. In the meantime, we encourage all families to practice good hygiene and social distancing.

The health and safety of our team and our families will remain our number one priority as we unify to serve our students. May you all remain safe, healthy, and Oredocker Strong.

Sincerely,



Erik T. Olson  
Superintendent