



June 19, 2020

Summer is here!

Last weekend, we had a wonderful send off for our high school seniors. The event was both meaningful and memorable. I want to thank John Patton and his team of teachers, students and parents that helped make the day special for the Class of 2020!

Today, on our last day of school via our continuous learning program, we also promote our 4th graders to the South Campus, our 6th graders to the secondary campus and our 8th graders into high school. We managed the COVID 19 pandemic and our spring semester together. I am very proud of the work of our staff, students and families for doing their best for the children of South Whidbey. We all need to take some time to relax and take a break so we can return to this critical work refreshed.

This weekend is the final weekend to complete the CEE Reopening Survey. If you haven't done so, please complete it now. The links to the survey were sent to staff, students and parents via email on June 8th. If you can not locate your link, please contact Kristy Macarro at communications@sw.wednet.edu. We will link a copy of the survey results under the COVID tab on our website later this summer.

Although summer may be full of adventures, I know the 2020-21 school year is on everyone's mind. Our board approved [instructional calendar for 2020-21 is on our website \(linked here\)](#). August 31st is our staff back to school meeting. September 2nd is our first day of school for the students.

How the 2020-21 school year will reopen is still being developed. We are reviewing the [OSPI Reopening Guidance](#) for requirements and recommendations now. We will review the survey results in July. Then becomes the work of defining what is possible, practical and responsible for the benefit of all. We need to work within the 2020-21 budget which will be presented to the Board in a presentation on July 8 and then for approval on July 22nd at their Board Business Meeting

We will have a decision on the reopening in early August. Right now our plan is to open with face to face instruction with modifications and have a more robust continuous learning plan (remote) as well. We are aware of the trepidation felt by everyone. Some parents are telling us that they do not want their child in a mask all day, while others will not return unless all are wearing masks. We have employees feeling similarly. In discussions with the Island County Health Department, and in anticipation of being in Phase 4 by September, our best defense is to screen everyone upon entry. That means that no one is permitted on campus if they have a fever or any symptoms of illness. The message that we stay home when sick will be tantamount to our ability to be safe for all and stay open. We are looking at all of the issues and will plan accordingly ([Education Weekly article on CDC recommendations linked here](#)). We believe that OSPI and the Department of Health will modify the guidance issued depending on the progression of the virus, treatment, testing availability, etc.

All school offices will be closed over the summer. At the district office, we still have the work from home model and will continue to do so. The district office staff is available by email. Any [new student registrations can now be done online \(see more information linked here\)](#).

I wish you all a restful and safe summer. Enjoy the sunshine. Get out for a hike, take a walk, play in your garden, volunteer at the school garden, or do whatever it is that makes you smile. Remember to continue the safety protocol - social distancing, masks, washing hands. Across the state, country and world we continue to see increased cases. However, locally, we have done an awesome job keeping COVID 19 at bay. Keep up the good work.

Have a wonderful summer break!

Dr. Jo Moccia, Superintendent