

9/24/20

Hi everyone,

I have some important information to share with you about the Yoncalla School District reopening plan. Yesterday the Douglas County superintendents, Colt Gill, ODE Director and Scott Nines, ODE Assistant Director had a county wide meeting to discuss the possibilities of reopening schools in Douglas County. There was a lot of information shared, however, the important data that we need to be mindful of is the state is going to change the metric for reopening schools from the percentage rate to cases per 100 thousand. We have to be 10 cases or less in order to reopen. At this point, Douglas County is looking at a case rate of 30 this week, which is obviously well above the 10 mark that we are looking for. What this means is that after we hit the 10 mark we have to wait three weeks until we can reopen for grades 4-12. Colt Gill, ODE Director, said that because of the spike in COVID-19 cases in Douglas County and throughout the state, we will have to restart the clock on our reopening plan. Also, Dr. Dannenhoffer, our local health expert, reiterated Gills thoughts by saying that he is strongly advising school district to make sure to keep the doors closed except for grades K-3. He stated that several individuals throughout Douglas County are being careless and it is having an enormous effect on our ability to reopen schools. This news was disconcerting. After the meeting, the north county Superintendents met. Elkton, ND, Oakland and Yoncalla have agreed to work together on an opening date. We are going to meet again on 10/5 to review the numbers and see where we stand.

As always, YSD appreciates your support in our efforts to move forward. We are frustrated with the new information, however, we will continue to improve our distance learning supports for our students and move forward in a positive direction. As we work towards a reopening date, I will make sure to keep you informed. In the meantime, we will continue to deliver food and make sure our students are moving forward towards graduation and a bright future!! ☺ Go Eagles