



December 3, 2021

Dear Reynolds Middle School Families and Staff:

**We are excited that students and staff will begin the transition back to in-person learning at Reynolds Middle School starting next week!** The move to Short-Term Distance Learning occurred as a way to focus on ensuring students and staff have the necessary social-emotional supports and safety protocols in place to provide safe in-person learning for all students. We would like to update you on what has occurred over this time and what students, families, and staff can expect in the near future.

Teachers and support staff will be provided a day to transition and prepare for the return of students on Monday, December 6, 2021. Students will return with a staggered start for in-person learning beginning with Grade 6 (only) on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Grade 7 (only) on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Grade 8 (only) on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and all Grades 6-8 on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. This staggered re-entry week will allow students a more individualized, grade-specific approach to allow students and staff opportunities to participate in culture-building activities.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b><u>December 6</u></b>	<b><u>December 7</u></b>	<b><u>December 8</u></b>	<b><u>December 9</u></b>	<b><u>December 10</u></b>
<b>NO SCHOOL</b> (Teachers transitioning to in-person learning)	<b>Grade 6 (only): In-Person Learning</b>	<b>Grade 7 (only): In-Person Learning</b>	<b>Grade 8 (only): In-Person Learning</b>	<b>Grades 6-8 (all): In-Person Learning</b>
Meal Pickup 11:30am-1:00pm	Meal at School ----- <b>Grades 7 and 8: Short-Term Distance Learning</b> Meal Pickup 11:30am-1:00pm	Meal at School ----- <b>Grades 6 and 8: Short-Term Distance Learning</b> Meal Pickup 11:30am-1:00pm	Meal at School ----- <b>Grades 6 and 7: Short-Term Distance Learning</b> Meal Pickup 11:30am-1:00pm	Meal at School

As students return, it is important to note that many changes have occurred or will occur throughout the rest of the school year to ensure safe and effective learning while in-person. These include:

- Parent/Guardian and Student Listening Sessions were held to gain a deeper understanding of what student and family needs are and how to build connection while

supporting those needs. Thank you to all the families and students who participated! Reynolds Middle School will continue actively engaging with families and students to review and reflect moving forward.

- Multiple meetings with building leadership team occurred and will continue in the future to collaboratively review and make decisions on student and staff safety and additional supports.
- The hiring of two additional Campus Monitors occurred to help support safety while building relationships with students. Campus Monitors provide necessary supervision during passing time in hallways and help students learn skills to self-regulate in their interactions with each other.
- Teaching staff are participating in Mandt de-escalation training to better understand the escalation cycle and appropriate methods for prevention and support for students. The Mandt system is a healthy, relationship-based learning and development platform designed to promote prevention, de-escalation, and intervention approaches.
- A full review of campus safety occurred to make improvements such as providing adult supervision in more challenging areas of the campus.
- Recess activities have been modified and will include high-interest games, competitions, and celebrations for students to ensure active engagement.
- Lunch periods have been reorganized to provide more efficient traffic flow and optimize community building.
- A peer mediator program is under development to allow students to actively participate in helping students resolve conflicts peacefully and with longer lasting results.
- Additional mental health practitioners are being recruited to support student well-being.
- Engaging social skills campaigns will occur monthly to provide student learning and practice for socialization in small and large settings.
- Social-emotional learning is being revised to include consistent restorative practices, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) standards, and ongoing practice in self-awareness, social awareness, and responsible decision making.
- Students and staff will participate in Challenge Day in January 2022 to build empathy and compassion in our school community. The Challenge Day program helps youth and adults unlearn harmful habits, experience vulnerability as a pillar to restore strength, and enable the experience of freedom of full expression through compassion, connection, and diversity.

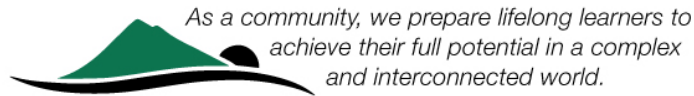
**We are also asking our parents and guardians to join us in this work.** We would like our families to have conversations together to discuss your student’s social and emotional health, constructive ways to de-escalate feelings of anger and frustration, the importance of physical boundaries, and the impact of bullying while in person or through social media. We can only make a difference in the lives of every student if we lean into this process and conversation as adults to promote positive mentoring relationships with our youth. Thank you for your help.

With the above measures, and more to come, we are confident that students and staff at Reynolds Middle School will work collaboratively to build safe learning environments for all. **Administrators, teachers, and support staff are excited to welcome Reynolds Middle School students back to in-person learning next week, and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces behind masks once again!** If you have any questions, please contact the school directly.

Thank you!

Dr. Danna Diaz  
Superintendent of Schools  
Reynolds School District

Sara Idle  
Principal  
Reynolds Middle School



[www.reynolds.k12.or.us](http://www.reynolds.k12.or.us)