

July 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

We have great news for you. Today we were able to work with the health department and are now able to release our carefully designed, back-to-school models so you may start your planning for the 20-21 school year! We received very good feedback regarding our plan today. Our hybrid model brings all elementary students back to school. Our secondary students will return for 50% of the week. The details are included in the back-to-school plan (link below). We will continue to work closely with the health department to monitor the numbers of cases in our area. If anything changes, we will be in touch as soon as possible.

Our attached document is titled, "Back-to-School Options in Orono Schools." It illustrates our models for the 2020-2021 school year. Per state requirements, and to meet the needs of all Orono learners, you will see that the district is also offering a distance-learning plan (at all grade levels) should families elect that option.

Please review this document and look for more detailed information as we approach the beginning of the school year. We are committed to providing guidance, support and clarity around our models and appreciate your continued patience and trust. Next week, watch for a communication asking you to select and submit your choice of model for each of your children.

Orono students are the heart of our community. As we continue our work together this school year, we will need flexibility and full cooperation from students and parents. We are partners in this work!

Let me close by thanking our teachers, they are incredible! Throughout this process Orono teachers have served as models of professionalism.

On behalf of all staff, we look forward to our continued partnership. We cannot wait to see our students returning to campus.

Karen Orcutt, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools