

READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

Guidance for school year 2021-22 from Oregon Department of Education & Oregon Health Authority

Local school districts Siu-slaw and Mapleton are excited to welcome students and staff back to school this fall and want to share some updates about what to expect.

As schools plan for the fall 2021 in-person school year, it is important to remember that communities will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity. COVID-19 continues to change with new variants,

and knowledge of mitigation efforts grows over time.

Right now, the best tools to protect each other are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and airflow, hand hygiene, and staying home if you feel sick or you know you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority

(OHA) shared guidance this summer that empowers school district leaders — in partnership with local public health authorities, such as Lane County Public Health — to make decisions about how to implement health and safety protocols, including physical distancing and face coverings. That guidance, "Ready Schools, Safe Learners," has been updated since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic,

most recently in August.

Both local districts want to share the health and safety protocols they have in place in each school, along with steps they plan to take in response to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, should they occur in the schools during the 2021-22 school year.

ODE encourages people to review the information from "Ready Schools, Safe Learners" and talk with their stu-

dents about what to expect.

"The transition back to school may prompt a range of emotions for you and/or your child — from anxiety and uncertainty to excitement and opportunity," ODE stated in a press release. "We want you to know it is a priority to create safe spaces where your child feels safe, cared for and connected to the learning environment. Working together, we can harness this opportunity to

rekindle joy and learning in the classrooms, auditoriums and playgrounds."

Learn more about "Ready Schools, Safe Learners" at www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/health-safety/Pages/Planning-for-the-2020-21-School-Year.aspx.

You can find more information about each local school district through mapleton.k12.or.us and siu-slaw.k12.or.us.

How to help students improve focus on studies

Teachers strive to create supportive and challenging classroom environments for their students. Such settings can bring out the best in students and help them overcome obstacles, including an inability to focus.

The struggles students can have with focusing on their studies was apparent during the pandemic. A 2020 survey of more than 400 college students found that 64 percent were concerned about their ability to maintain their focus and discipline in remote instructional environments.

Though educators, students and parents are hopeful that remote learning will soon be a thing of the past, no one is certain about what lies ahead in regard to the 2021-22 school year. Ideally, students will be back in school time full-time five days per week by the start of the new academic year. However, there's no guarantee that will be the case, and students may need help focusing on their studies.

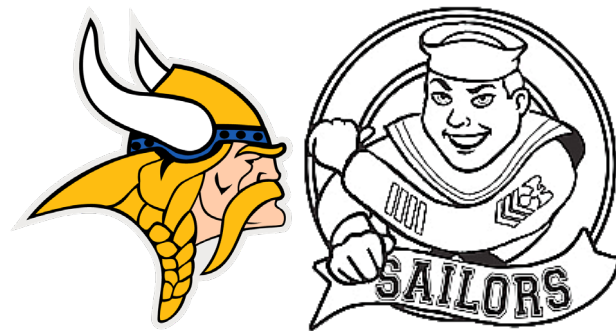
formance.

- Take a piecemeal approach to big tasks. The Child Mind Institute notes that breaking big tasks down into smaller, more manageable pieces can help kids effectively tackle more chal-

lenging tasks. The piecemeal approach can make big tasks seem less daunting, and the success kids have at each smaller task can provide some needed momentum as they draw closer to solving the problem.

Many students struggle to focus on their studies. Some simple strategies can help students overcome such challenges and fulfill their academic potential.

— Metro Creative Connection



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We're back! Things may look a bit different, but we're happy to welcome everyone back beginning August 31. **Fall classes begin Sept. 29**, with both credit and community education classes offered on site. For more information on getting started at Lane Community College, visit www.lanecc.edu. We hope to see you soon! **LCC Florence Center, 3149 Oak St., 541.997.8444**