March 18, 2020

Dear Lopez and Decatur Students and Families:

Here is the latest update from your school, with particular information on how we will be stepping into the next six weeks. The school team has been working since last Friday to get initial plans into place and to coordinate with all our resources. Our approach is to address the most critical issues first, get an initial wave of support out to families and students, and then learn, adjust, and add from there.

So, we are hoping we all can be creative, flexible, share ideas and concerns, and maybe most of all, be compassionate and supportive towards one another. This is an extraordinary situation and we will best address it together.

Below we’ve outlined the plans and actions which are in place at this point in time. We will keep communicating on all of this. Please send us your questions, comments and ideas.

1. Learning Support

We are adopting a Home Learning approach to support your students in reviewing and continuing to practice their learning concepts and skills. Each teacher is currently working on a set of extended learning activities for their subject areas. Your student’s teachers are preparing to send out Home Learning activities every week, including a variety of supportive activities and/or ‘links’ that your students can access online.

Teachers may be reaching out to families through email this week and the first set of Learning Activities is scheduled to be emailed to you this upcoming Monday, March 23rd. Please keep an eye out for them. If for some reason you think you are missing a set of activities, feel free to contact that teacher. Their emails are listed on the school website: www.lopezislandschool.org under the “Staff” tab. Again, each Monday, a new set of learning activities will be emailed to you starting Monday, March 23rd.

The district has chosen the Home Learning approach over a ‘virtual classroom’ approach. The latter was considered, but given the short amount of time and the state’s requirements that we equitably meet every student’s learning needs, we felt strongly that the Home Learning option was the best way to create learning opportunities for the next six weeks. These activities can-not be graded, nor will they count towards your child’s grades.
We want to provide graduating seniors the content they need to meet their graduation requirements and to support their post-secondary transition. More information will be provided March 23rd from OSPI and we will contact the seniors and families directly.

As we all step into this uncharted water, please feel free to contact your teachers at any time by email with questions or suggestions as you feel the need.

2. Nutritional Support

On Lopez, the school is providing breakfast and lunches for all students who wish to have them. They will be delivered by our school vans on the regular bus routes (two and a half hours later than normal AM pick up times, much like a snow day). The vans will have breakfast and lunch in a bag with a team of staff members making the deliveries. Additional information about this program can be found on the front page of the school website in the News / Announcement section.  www.lopezislandschool.org

You must sign your student(s) up to be a part of this program. To sign your student up for the program, please go to and fill out the following form (which is in both English and Spanish).

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbnyVxra896fsCZX2LXwo11jPeJoJ7R2V8VIjkJNhZPWgbg/viewform

3. Childcare

The Lopez School District and Family Resource Center are working to support childcare options for essential professionals such as nurses, doctors, EMTs, etc. That program is still being worked out and staffing is being assessed. At this time if you are in an essential professional category and have a potential need for childcare, please look for more information to come out next week or contact the Family Resource Center. We will assess the level of need in the community as we work in conjunction with the Family Resource Center to create a program.

4. Stemming the Virus in our Island Communities – how families and students can help

One critical thing families can do is to keep talking with your children and help them understand the safety steps they can take to reduce the spread of the coronavirus on our islands. While
fortunately younger people are less vulnerable to the coronavirus, we have many people in the community who are quite vulnerable. Anyone infected can transmit the disease, whether or not they are showing any symptoms.

Our County Medical Officer, Dr. Frank James, has put together a great “Hot Topics” sheet with ideas on how to keep at-home students and families safe and with activities that can be a part of doing that effectively. We highly recommend that you take a look at his sheet and discuss it with your children:

https://www.sanjuanco.com/DocumentCenter/View/19958/HotTopic2-School-is-Closed

At the heart of our decision last Thursday to close the schools, was our desire to keep our children and staff out of large groups, away from possible infection, and away from becoming someone who could transmit the disease to someone else. So, we all need to continue safe practices as best we can while our children are at home. Please do look at Dr. James’ ideas and recommendations. They are very informative, creative, and helpful. The sheet is also posted on the school website, under the “District Info” tab, and on the “Update on COVID-19 page”.

5. School Library (LMC):

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS: the Lopez School is working towards providing the opportunity to check out books. This supports the Home Learning approach. We are offering to get books into your student's hands on a twice-weekly basis. Deirdre Steinbrueck will take your requests by email, check the book out to your child and meet you at the entrance of the Elementary School on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00-9:30AM, for book distribution. Each book will be disinfected and families will be able to pick them up without getting out of their cars.

The library’s catalog is viewable from the school district's website. Here's the link: library.lopez.k12.wa.us. You can also find it under the For Students tab, Library Media Center.

✔ The Search option (magnifying glass) allows you to look up a topic/subject, author, or title.
✔ The Explore option (the rocket), allows you to search by subject matter / genre.
Once you find the books you'd like to check out, send an email to dsteinbrueck@lopezislandschool.org with the book’s title and author. She looks forward to providing books to students of Lopez Island during this difficult time.

6. General School Information

We want to let families know that Spring Break is still scheduled for April 6th-10th. In addition, a plan is being worked on for conferences and more information on this will be communicated by your child’s teacher. Also, the plan is to return to school on April 27th, unless we hear otherwise from the State.

We realize the challenge that we all are facing here. We are encouraged by how hard so many staff members, parents, students and others are working to support our learning community. Lopez School will continue to provide you with relevant information as it develops. Again, please feel free to email district leadership or your teachers with questions, concerns, and ideas.

Regards,

Lopez Island School Board

Brain Auckland, Superintendent, bauckland@lopezislandschool.org
Dixie Budke, Principal, dbudke@lopezislandschool.org
John Helding, School Board Chair, jhelding@lopezislandschool.org

The Lopez Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Superintendent Brian Auckland – bauckland@lopezislandschool.org, Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – jcarter@lopezislandschool.org, OR contact by phone, 360-468-2202, OR mail to 86 School Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261.