



Hello Columbia Families,

Happy August! We are looking forward to beginning our 2020-2021 school year with you in just a few short weeks.

Columbia's Operations Plan (blueprint) is in its final stages and will be shared with our community and with our local health agencies on Monday, August 17. The blueprint outlines necessary procedures to ensure the health and safety of all members of the community while keeping with our mission to provide academic excellence.

What to expect:

- **Columbia will begin school on September 2nd in Comprehensive Distance Learning with plans to implement limited in-person instruction.** The guidance for limited in-person instruction was just released this week from Oregon Department of Education. The in-person option allows us to *bridge* comprehensive distance learning with in-person instruction to:
 - Address connectivity issues
 - Provide academic support
 - Access assessment
 - Provide social, emotional, or mental health support
 - Build educator-to-student relationships
 - Support live peer-to-peer interaction
 - Support ongoing engagement and attendance
 - Build school community and culture
 - Ensure culturally relevant and sustaining pedagogy
 - Prepare for a return to in-person instruction
 - Provide voluntary supplemental supports
- **Columbia will provide families with choice.** We understand that when Multnomah County comes into compliance with the county metrics (which would allow Columbia to bring all students back to the classroom for 5-day-a-week instruction), some families will want to continue with distance learning. We support this choice and will provide synchronous learning for those students and families who choose to continue with comprehensive distance learning.
- **Kindergarten through 3rd grade** will likely be able to return to in-school instruction earlier under metric allowances. It is understood that *younger students need access to in-person instruction to build literacy and numeracy skills critical to their continued learning.*
- **Classroom accommodations have been made** to meet the various needs of class size and quality instruction in support of the 35 square-feet per person requirement. This means that some of our teachers have moved classrooms. Columbia is dedicated to providing a quality learning environment for the students and families we serve.
- **Teacher professional development** has taken place throughout the summer to best prepare our faculty for comprehensive distance learning. Trainings have been specifically targeted toward practical skills and knowledge to effectively meet the critical needs of educators and students.

It's been an unprecedented year. Yet – the family at Columbia Christian continues to be devoted to supporting our students to thrive and remain faithful as we navigate these challenging times together.

In His Service,
Ami Vensel, M.Ed.
President