



SEABURYSCHOOL
EDUCATION WITH THE BRAKES OFF

Sept. 16, 2020

Dear Seabury families:

Now that COVID-19 transmission rates in Pierce County have continued to decline, we have moved into what the state has termed the “moderate” zone in its school opening decision tree. This allows schools to make plans to bring their youngest students back to campus for in-person learning.

As of today, if transmission rates continue to remain low, our plan is to roll out in-person learning at our lower school campus to **students in kindergarten through third grade beginning Monday, Sept. 28**. If transmission rates continue to stay low, that will be followed by **fourth and fifth grades on Oct. 12**. Families of students in these grade levels will have the choice to have their child return to school in person or to continue with distance learning from home. Middle school will remain in distance learning mode for the immediate future. Families may change their minds at any time by letting the office and their child’s teacher know one day in advance. If there are enough families interested, we will offer bus service from DeLong Park, 4702 S. 12th St., Tacoma, and the Downtown Tacoma middle school campus. Please complete and submit [this form](#) by Wednesday, Sept. 23, to let us know if your student will return in person or stay in distance learning mode and if they are a bus rider

wishing to use the bus.

School will look different when children return. Health and safety protocols for morning health screenings, social distancing, wearing masks, and cohort grouping (limiting the people your child is exposed to during the day by keeping each class separate from other classes) will mean new routines. These protocols have been in place since the start of school for our pre-k students and are going exceptionally well. The kids are learning, joyful and loving school. Families of lower school students can expect communication in the coming weeks about the transition to school, including detailed information about health and safety protocols. In order to provide teachers the time they need to transition to being on campus, regular virtual classes for students will be cancelled on Thursday and Friday of the week prior to a class starting on campus. Specialists will still meet with students on those days, and classroom teachers may make routine assignments or ask students to spend time on ongoing projects during those days. Teachers will be in training on health protocols, making sure technology that connects students at home with students at school is working, and preparing the classrooms for students.

Obviously making plans during a pandemic means writing in pencil as things can change quickly. It is still possible that the dates for returning to campus could change if transmission rates begin to climb, or that a class that has returned might need to resume working remotely if there is an exposure or if the health department recommends closing schools again. Our staff is ready to make sure learning continues no matter the circumstances.

You are encouraged attend our first Town Hall of the school year tomorrow at 4 p.m. (Thursday, Sept. 17/ [Zoom link](#)). I will be available to answer your questions and talk more about our plans. It would also be great to have questions in advance, if you have them ready. Submit those to Jackie:

office@seabury.org.

As always, our priority is our kids. We appreciate your partnership with us as we navigate this crazy year.

**In service,
Sandi Wollum
Head of school**