



March 9, 2020

Dear OWS families,

Thank you for your patience between communications as we continue to plan around COVID-19. Many hours are being invested in reviewing information and planning. Even then, our planning needs to be flexible as the landscape changes.

Current Status

As of this morning, there are still no confirmed cases within our school community or Thurston County. Thurston County DOH is not recommending that schools close currently. OWS will continue to remain open and functioning as normal at this time.

Most field trips and meetings are continuing as planned. If your event is canceled, your teacher will let you know.

Illness and Staying Home

The WA Department of Health (DOH) has updated their guidelines on who should stay home and for how long. We are changing our expectations to match this recommendation. **Children with a fever over 100.1 should not return to school until their fever and symptoms have been gone for 72 hours.** Siblings with no fever or symptoms may still attend. The school will continue to send home children with fevers. Students who return to school before the allotted 72 hours may be sent home. For more recommendations from the DOH please visit their website at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>.

Extended Closure Planning

As we have seen in King County Schools, there may be a need for school closure in the future. In the event of a school closure, we will communicate this to you as soon as possible. We will utilize our standard methods – flashalert, email, phone message, and facebook. All of our communications are also posted on our new webpage at <http://www.olympiawaldorf.org/covid-19-information>.

We are gearing up for remote schooling in the event of an extended period of closure. Our school staff and faculty are attending webinars with other Waldorf schools to find creative ways to offer remote learning. We are able to utilize Google Classroom and Google Meet for online offerings and remote learning communication.

An extended closure will begin with a notification of the closure and it's expected length (if known). Further communications will be sent out via email and on our webpage outlining how to access remote schooling and when it will begin. You should expect a delay of 1-2 days between school closure and the start of remote

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learning. The time will be used to train teachers on the technology and set up resources. Faculty and staff will still be available to you for questions and concerns. There will be no extended care options and no field trips.

Current precautions

Teachers and staff are working hard on day-to-day cleanliness of our facility. Children are washing their hands as soon as they enter the classroom each morning. Faculty and staff are also expected to wash their hands at the start of the day. Extra cleaners and disposable towels have been distributed to classrooms to support extra surface cleaning throughout the day.

Cubby cleanouts will happen with more regularity. In the Kinderhause, please take home all of your child's belongings each week. The cubby area will be cleaned thoroughly each weekend. In Prairie Hall and the Middle School, we will have cubby cleanout on March 20th and again on April 1st. Additional cleaning may be scheduled after the break. This additional cleanout will allow for additional surface cleaning that cannot happen when personal belongings are present. We understand this can be a hassle but feel the additional cleaning will support the school best.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, some families may feel it necessary to self-quarantine. There are many reasons a family may make this decision – an elder family member in the home, immune compromised children or family members, etc. If this affects you, please communicate with your child(ren)'s teacher. In regards to absences, we hope you will understand that we cannot offer both a traditional Waldorf education at the same time as remote schooling. Your teacher may be able to offer you some guidance on work your child can be doing at home, but please understand the workload they already carry. We do not expect each teacher to provide alternative home learning while school is still in session. Thank you for understanding.

Each fieldtrip and gathering is considered carefully as it approaches. As this situation evolves, we will continue to review each event. Parents are encouraged to make the best decision for themselves and their child(ren). Teachers and staff will not discriminate against families who choose not to attend. We also ask families not to judge others decisions and to pass this expectation on to children. COVID-19 will affect each of us differently, but it should not divide us by race, socioeconomic status, nationality, gender or any other identifier. Our school will work to ensure that any precautions we take apply equally to all; we ask the same of our community. We appreciate your patience now and in the future months as we navigate COVID-19 and its affects. If, at any time, you have suggestions, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Redden
Business Administrator

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