March 13, 2020

Sherman County School Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

In keeping with the latest directive by the Governor, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Department of Education, the Sherman County School District will conduct an extended spring break and close beginning Monday, March 16, with a plan for students to return to school on April 1. All staff will return to work on Monday, March 30, for planning purposes. We sincerely apologize to everyone for the inconvenience this may present to you and your family.

During the closure, all athletic events, practices, after school, and extra-curricular activities are canceled.

The safety and well-being of our students is our main focus at this time. We are planning to deliver sack lunches to each of our five communities. The days of delivery will be on March 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, and 31. Locations and times are set as the following:

- Kent – Baptist Church Parking Lot – 12:30 p.m.
- Grass Valley – Baptist Church Parking Lot – 11:30 a.m.
- Moro – Front Courthouse Parking Lot – 12:00 p.m.
- Wasco – Train Depot – 12:00 p.m.
- Rufus – In front of Rufus Community Center – 12:00 p.m.

During the week of March 16–20, all teachers have been asked to develop and finalize plans at home for virtual and remote learning opportunities. This extended time will allow us to develop processes to be ready to deliver remote instruction on or after April 1 if it is necessary.

The school district is in close contact with the Governor, Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Department of Education. We will continue to monitor and assess the entire situation and communicate back with you if we need to adjust plans or return dates.

This communication and further updates will also be posted on our District website. We encourage students, during this extended break, to stay at home, read and write for enjoyment, exercise, work on previously assigned materials, and enjoy time with family.

I know this is a major announcement that in many ways is without local precedent. Given the seriousness of the current situation, we firmly believe that this decision is the best one we can make given all available information and keeping the best interests of our students, staff and community at heart.

We truly appreciate your flexibility and understanding with this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens