

# Ashbrook Compass



## *Navigating Our Community*

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### **Important Information on the 20-21 School Year**

Dear Families,

It was recently brought to our attention that certain Albany addresses and zip codes are actually located in Benton County, so we can now confirm that only 5.7% of our school population resides in Linn County. This means we do not need to include Linn County in our metrics for returning! As long as Benton County remains below the 5% test positivity rate and less than 30 cases per 100,000 population, we are able to bring K-3rd grade students on campus. We are waiting for approval on our emergency childcare license to bring our PS/PK students on campus.

Unfortunately, there is not enough significant improvement with statewide metrics to allow for students in grades 4-8 to return to the building. Although we partially expected this to be the case, we also hoped for a different outcome. We will be starting the school year online for grades 4-8 with the first day of school on September 9th, and we will continue to monitor the progress of the cases in our county and Oregon in 4-week intervals.

These last few months we have been preparing the building for a safe return to school. As we complete plans to be ready for our K-3 students in September and for the eventual return of our 4-8 students, we are simultaneously finalizing plans for a high-quality distance learning program.

Our distance learning program will allow students and parents to stay connected to their school, teacher, and classmates while staying engaged with our regular Ashbrook curriculum. Last spring, Ashbrook teachers worked hard to kickstart the online program. In doing so, they overcame obstacles and discovered many successes. Parents played a vital role in this experience. Thanks to our talented teachers, hardworking students, and supportive parents we are ready to jump right in this fall and hit the ground running! Here are

some ways we are making the system more structured and user-friendly as we have taken the feedback from the spring to guide our next steps with online learning.

The distance learning program will include:

- Predictable schedules and routines for daily learning activities that more closely follow the normal schedule to allow for a smoother return to the building
- Lower School: 1 daily zoom link to homeroom - specialists login to the homeroom class rather than students keeping track of separate links/emails
- Electives and specialist classes offered regularly
- High quality direct instruction and ongoing support for students by teachers
- Synchronous is balanced with asynchronous instruction each day to give students breaks from screen time and allow for project based learning.
- Daily synchronous learning for students with increased teacher-led instruction (e.g., Zoom lessons or meetings with teachers)
- Daily asynchronous learning for students (offline tasks, projects, reading)
- Progress monitoring and assessment
- Clarity around attendance and participation
- Middle School: Academic support classes
- Family engagement and partnerships
- Guaranteed small online class sizes
- Books and specialty supplies provided for projects and labs
- Chromebooks available for check-out

Although we have worked to develop the highest quality programs for our students, we all fully recognize that in-person learning in our beautiful facility is where our hearts desire to be right now. However, I will say this today and probably many more times in the next few months--please remember that this is what we must do for now, not forever.

See the [Online Family Guide](#) posted on our [Return to School](#) site for detailed schedules and expectations.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Sechler  
Interim Head of School

CHALLENGE – NURTURE – CARE - 2020



Mr. Wilson is working on plans for online learning and his classroom is ready for students when they can safely return.

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## Important Upcoming Dates

**August 31 - September 3** -- Teacher in-service week

**September 4** -- Office Closed

**September 8** -- Drive-Thru Pick-up (4-8th grades) and PICTURE DAY (all grades) \*New date

**September 9** -- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! (Half Day - Students dismissed at 12:00 pm)

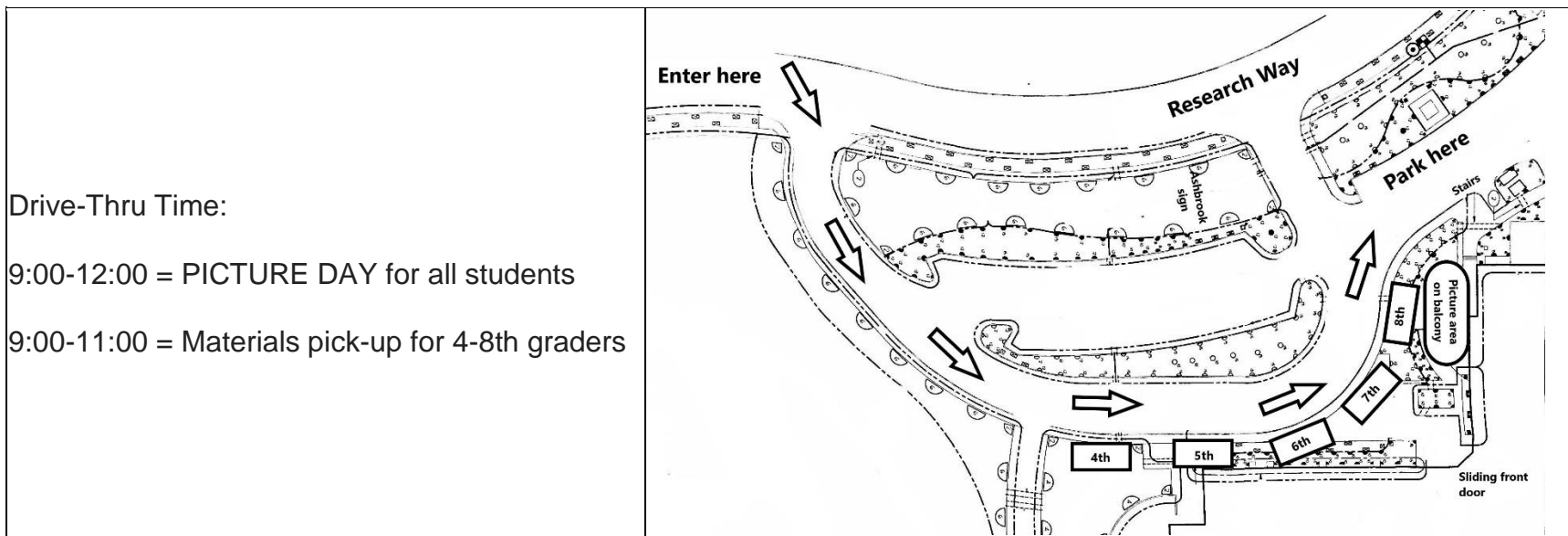
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## September 8 -- Drive-Thru Pick-up (4-8th grades) and Picture Day (all grades)

Similar to last spring, we'll be having a drive-through area 9-11 am for 4-8th graders to pick up textbooks and supplies. Picture Day has moved to take advantage of our virtual students and all teachers being on campus. Lifetouch photographers will be here 9am-12 noon. Uniform dress is not required. Class photos will be done in a composite format as opposed to a group photo. If you are unable to attend, retakes will be on October 23.

The following procedure will be followed to make this pick-up day a successful start to the new school year:

- Families will enter at the south entrance.
- Drive slowly in the direction of the one-way flow of traffic - see map below.
- If you have a student in grades 4-8, stop your car at the grade level table for your student.
- You may get out and retrieve your student's items from their grade level table and then return to your car. Whoever is stepping out of the car must wear a mask, and staff will also be wearing a mask and using sanitizer. If you are uncomfortable stepping out of your car, you may request that a staff member place the items in your trunk
- If you have more grades to visit, pull forward to the next table.
- Park in the staff parking area so your student(s) can wait in line on the outside balcony for pictures. Colored dots will be on the concrete to mark a 6' distance. Students will enter one at a time to have their picture taken and parents must wait outside. **NEW** this year--siblings may have their picture taken together!



\*Please email Carol at [calley@ashbrookschoool.org](mailto:calley@ashbrookschoool.org) if you are unable to arrive during your family's time slot

### Current Metrics

Please keep in mind the following:

As long as Benton county remains under the 5% positivity test rate and has less than 30 cases per 100,000 population for **3 consecutive weeks**, our K-3rd grade students can be on-site. To bring back our 4-8th graders, the statewide positivity test rate must also be under 5%.

	Benton New Cases per 100,000	Benton Test positive rate	Oregon Test positive rate
Week of 7/12/20	16	1.3%	5.4%
Week of 7/19/20	5	2.8%	5.7%
Week of 7/26/20	23	2.8%	6.2%
Week of 8/2/20	14	3.0%	5.2%
Week of 8/9/20	19	1.4%	5.4%

For the purposes of re-opening schools, only the three most recent weeks matter; previous week(s) are included to show trends over time. The data for previous weeks may change slightly as new reports are published – this is due to updated records in the underlying data base.

For the most up-to-date numbers, visit the Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 Health page [HERE](#).