

Ashbrook Compass



Navigating Our Community

Important Information on the 20-21 School Year

Dear Families,

As promised, we will now begin weekly communication through the Compass for the new 20-21 school year. As COVID cases continue to rise in Linn and Benton counties, we are not yet confident that we will be able to bring all grade levels back to the building for on-site instruction. The health and safety of our staff and students is of the utmost importance and we have continued to monitor the updates from the Oregon Health Authority. You can keep track [HERE](https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19) (<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>) if you'd like to view the weekly updates as well.

With that said, this week we completed our required Operational Blueprint and did indicate our intention to provide on-site learning in order to have these plans in place for the eventual return to the building. We will post this to our website next week and share it with you in next week's Compass. Additionally, we received clarification that as of now, if the counties (Linn and Benton) remain under the 5% positivity test rate and have less than 30 cases per 100,000 population for 3 consecutive weeks, we may be able to bring our K-3 grades on-site. We have also applied for the emergency license through the Oregon Childcare Division in order to continue our preschool and pre-k program on-site.

For grades 4-8, the metrics for both the counties and the state are not yet low enough to allow schools to fully open. We recognize that families--as well as our teachers--need to plan and prepare for how your children will be learning in September, and we will confirm by August 21st if we will move to fully At-Home Learning for the first weeks of the school year.

I will leave you this week with a few notes about the incredible teachers we have at Ashbrook who are planning and preparing for either route we must go (even during their summer break). Ashbrook attracts special teachers who have the deepest passion and dedication to education, and it shows! Teachers have been coming and going all summer long. Many started setting up their classrooms early in July, while others have been stopping in each week to work on a project or lesson planning. Teachers are coming in to do admissions assessments for prospective students and many have scheduled small group meetings to discuss and collaborate about the upcoming year. From home they are sending in ideas and discussing options over email with their

colleagues. They are determined to make this year the best that it can be in whatever form the year takes, and we are all fortunate to have these teachers leading the way in educating your children.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rachel Sechler

Interim Head of School



Mrs. Wheatley setting up her classroom.

“Come grow with our Ashbrook Community”

Summer Office Hours

Through August 21

8:00-3:00 Monday-Friday

August 24 – September 3

7:30–4:00 Monday-Thursday

3:30 on Fridays

Office closed September 4

Face coverings required, start practicing with your student now

With any return to the building, all students in grades K-8 will be required to wear face coverings while on campus. Here is what this means at Ashbrook as well as some ways to start helping your student now with this new normal.

- Face coverings will be worn at all times inside and outside the building
- Students may ask for a “mask break” and be offered a space away from others to remove their covering
- Face coverings do not need to follow dress code colors - make this fun, choose exciting unique designs! Just keep it school appropriate.
- Recommend: purchase 5 face coverings, one for each school day, then wash them all on the weekend. Students should wear a fresh, clean face covering each day.
- Buy a mask lanyard to attach the mask/face covering so the student doesn't drop or set down their face covering - ([An example from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Lanyard-Holder-Necklace-Herringbone-Washable/dp/B08CS51D9L/ref=sr_1_26?dchild=1&keywords=mask%2Blanyard&qid=1596611258&sr=8-26&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Lanyard-Holder-Necklace-Herringbone-Washable/dp/B08CS51D9L/ref=sr_1_26?dchild=1&keywords=mask%2Blanyard&qid=1596611258&sr=8-26&th=1))

Some tips for helping your child learn to wear a face covering:

- Start small - have them wear their face covering for 10-15 minute chunks of time and build up to an hour or two at a time.
- Do face covering practice during fun times so students associate the covering with positive things such as playing video games, biking, cooking, watching t.v., etc.
- Let them choose their own design! Kids like to have choice and control over things, so give them control over what their masks look like. If your child loves unicorns, then search for unicorn masks.
- Find the right fit - take time to find a style that fits your child's face and doesn't tug on the ears. If the face covering is comfortable, they will wear it for longer periods.
- Avoid ties - unless your child is very skilled at being able to tie behind their head, avoid coverings with ties. Remember, each time it comes untied, teachers have to touch the ties to help the student.

- Read [this post](https://www.christianpediatricianinsights.com/post/children-can-wear-masks) (<https://www.christianpediatricianinsights.com/post/children-can-wear-masks>) by our very own Dr. Christy Rivers, Pediatrician at The Corvallis Clinic, as she explains a few excellent tips for mask wearing.

“Think of all the crazy things you have seen children comfortably wear and do. Routinely, they wear shoes on the wrong feet, wear their clothes backwards or inside out, wear hats that are too tight or too loose, constantly falling over their eyes. I see kids wear Halloween masks that cover the entire face, sometimes on Halloween and sometimes not. Kids will wear 7 layers of scarves and boas until they can't turn their necks or they will march around in a swimsuit only, teeth chattering and lips blue, insisting they feel just fine. The point is, children are quite capable of doing things adults have lost the ability to do.”

How to help your child wear a face covering

It's understandable that children may be afraid of wearing face coverings at first. Here are a few ideas to help make them seem less scary:

- Let your child pick out and decorate their own face covering.
- Try different styles to find one that's a comfortable fit.
- Put a face covering on a favorite stuffed animal or draw one on a favorite book character.
- Introduce the mask when everyone is relaxed and comfortable but not too sleepy.
- Practice wearing the face covering at home to help your child get used to it.
- Play some “let's pretend” games with characters that wear masks.
- Point out other people wearing masks while you're out.



Children under the age of two or who can't remove a face covering should not wear one.

For more information visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211



Parent Survey

Thank you for filling out the Parent Survey! Your answers are helping us understand where program needs are critical so we can plan accordingly.

We had 5 families indicate that our Gym Drop 'N Go was critical and 6 families indicate that our After School Program was critical. We are looking at ways we can accommodate the needs of those families without exposing cohort groups to each other and still maintain reasonable staffing numbers. Scheduling may be tricky, and we may not be able to accommodate drop-ins.

Only 6 families indicated they wanted a monthly lunch plan but another 36 indicated they would be interested in individual meals depending on the menu. We are optimistic that we can offer a lunch program to accommodate those families and will communicate more in the coming weeks.

Update on Yearbook Arrival

The yearbook supplement is almost here, so we are waiting until we can give you both the yearbook and supplement at the same time. If you want to see if we have extras, email calley@ashbrookschool.org to reserve one; \$13.00 check payable to AIS.