

# Ashbrook Compass



Dear Families,

We have had two weeks of our K-3 grades back in the building and things are going smoothly! Thank you to our staff and families during this time for following the protocols that allow us to make this transition as safe as possible. After working with the teachers to determine our next steps, we would like to present our tentative plan for continuing to transition more grades to in-person learning. These dates are tentative, as we know situations can change rapidly, but we are hopeful we can follow this progression once the case rates drop below 200 cases per 100,000 population.

## Tentative timeline for return:

- 2/25 & 2/26: In-service days for teachers - no classes for 4th-8th grades
- 3/1: 4th and 5th grade returns
- 3/8: 6th grade returns
- 3/29: 7th and 8th grade returns

Regardless of the timeline, we will plan to have no classes for 4th-8th grades on February 25th and 26th for the following reasons:

- To provide a day for training on updated COVID protocols for teachers who have not been teaching in-person.
- To provide teachers time to prepare and set up their classroom and curriculum for in-person classes.
- To accommodate schedules of staff who have scheduled 2nd COVID vaccinations during those two days.
- To ensure operational staff are provided time to plan and prepare sanitation routines and supplies for the additional cohorts.

We will update families every Friday. As we get closer to the return dates, we will make sure families have time to review protocols and any updated forms. We will also spend time prior to and at the beginning of any in-person instruction teaching the students about what to expect and answering their questions. Families will have an opportunity to provide the school with their plans for returning as well through a survey as we get closer.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions.

Rachel Sechler  
Interim Head of School

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## Next Week:

**Feb 12** -- Middle School 'A Week' schedule

## Upcoming Dates:

**Feb 15** -- President's Day, NO SCHOOL

**Feb 19** -- Middle School 'B Week' schedule

**Feb 19** -- Lunch forms due

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## Parent Perspective from the Chambers Family



We have loved Ashbrook since day one. Our journey with Ashbrook Independent School began with a teaching position in 2015 and now continues with our son in the pre-school class. We knew from early on in our experience at the school that it would be a dream to enroll our kids. We love the passion the teachers and staff bring to their students and the familial culture that makes Ashbrook feel like home.

The students are encouraged to do their best and are challenged at appropriate levels. They are held accountable and taught what it means to be active and productive members of their community. We love that Ashbrook places importance on the celebration of many cultures through their foreign language program. There is also an emphasis on the importance of physical and health education as well as music and art that gives students a holistic learning experience. Ashbrook incorporates character building and cross-curricula lessons in the daily learning experiences that make it interesting and applicable to students' lives.

We know that when we drop our son off at school that his small class size and highly capable teachers will allow him the opportunity to reach his potential. He will be met exactly where he is and will be in a safe community whose first priority is their students. The janitorial team, the culinary staff, teachers, office staff, families, and other students work closely together to create a strong sense of community. We know that we will be kept informed beyond our expectations about his progress and how we can support him at home. We chose Ashbrook because they go above and beyond to create learning opportunities that would be hard to compare.

~The Chambers Family

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## Thank you Starker Forests!

Ashbrook applied for and received a \$5000 grant from Starker Forests, Inc to help offset some of our COVID-related expenses this past fall. We are deeply appreciative of the support from one of our local business partners and look forward to the day when we can once again take field trips to their company forest to learn about sustainable forestry.

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## Learning Focus

Kindergarteners worked on projects about force this week. They created a model mountain with a boulder that was about to crush a tiny town and engineered a solution to the problem. They also built tiny wrecking balls to learn how to knock down a model wall without knocking down nearby model houses.



## Alumni in the News

2019 graduate Linus O'Brien had an article printed in Tuesday's Corvallis Gazette-Times regarding his work in Youth Climate Action Now and their plans to bring a "Corvallis Love Food, Not Waste" initiative to the City Council on February 16. Way to go, Linus!

You can read the article [HERE](#).

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## Clothes Rack Special

We are excitedly planning for our students' return to campus, but has your student outgrown their uniform items while learning from home? Now you can swap your clean, gently-used Dress Code items for ones on the clothes racks for free.

We will follow our COVID-safe protocol and have one family member at a time selecting items between 8am-3:30pm. Email Carol to set-up an appointment.

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## Lunch Program Resumes March 1

To coincide with the 4th and 5th graders scheduled return on March 1, we will resume cold lunch service delivered to the classrooms. The sign-up form for the remainder of the year is [HERE](#). For those who want to start on March 1, please return the form by Friday, February 19 so Fabio can place a food order the following week.

Lunch orders can be added at a later date; however, you must notify the front office prior to 3:00 PM on Wednesdays for lunches to begin the following week so the weekly food order can be adjusted.

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## Explorers Fund Update

**We are only \$14,750 away** from qualifying for the \$60,000 in matching funds from the Board of Trustees and an anonymous donor!

Click [HERE](#) to be taken directly to the Explorers Fund page on the Ashbrook website where you can donate via credit card or EFT/ACH (there is a small payment processing fee) or mail a check directly to the school marked ATTN. Explorers Fund. Ashbrook Independent School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and gifts may be tax deductible.

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Ms. Steckler teaching MS science from her desk at school.



Madame/Señora Burand juggles online and in-person classes in both French and Spanish.



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## New Attendance Email address

We have a new attendance email address for your ease in letting us know about upcoming appointments, early pick-ups, or absences for your student.

To pick up your student early, please email both Attendance and your student's teacher with the time and date in advance. Once you arrive, call 541-766-8313 from the parking lot and we will walk your student out.

If your student is arriving late or returning from an appointment, please come into the Commons and Office staff will help you.

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## Current COVID Metrics

At this time, Benton County is in the orange category with 224 cases per 100,000 for the 1/17/20 - 1/30/21 time frame. ODE and OHA advise that elementary schools can prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid learning with county case rates less than 350 over a 2-week period, and schools are not advised to reduce in-person learning or return to distance learning based on metrics as long as the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment.

Metrics are released every Monday. For a complete guide to the current metrics, please visit [www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Documents/Following%20the%20Metrics%20Visual.pdf)