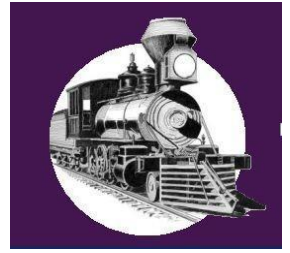


Laurel Public Schools

Dr. Linda Filpula, Superintendent
School District No. 7 & 7-70
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April 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

On April 22, 2020, Governor Bullock announced a phased reopening allowing local school boards the option to open school buildings on May 7th. Providing any onsite instruction will still require adherence to the MT Reopening Guidelines available on our website. On Monday, April 27, 2020, I will recommend to the Board our district utilize online learning for the remainder of the school year for the following reasons.

1. **Social Distance Guidelines:** With class sizes of 20-30 students across the district and roughly 150 students per grade level, students would be required to come in shifts or on certain days, as group gatherings are limited to 10 or less. This would include teachers and instructional aides in the classroom.
2. **Sanitation Guidelines:** Cleaning and sanitation procedures would need to be implemented with the students and staff to ensure frequent handwashing and disinfecting multiple times throughout the day. Masks would also need to be provided to students and staff. A coordinated effort of taking temperatures for symptom screening would need to occur at every building for students and staff.
3. **Transportation:** Transportation of students would require six feet of social distancing on the busses. Our busses currently transport roughly 80 students on one bus. It would require multiple trips to get students to school each day and back home.
4. **Staffing:** Some of our teachers and aides are able to provide instruction in an online format, but would be unable to attend onsite due to their own family circumstances. These include their own health situation, family member's health conditions or potential exposure, their own children in the home, and other extenuating circumstances.
5. **Student Meals:** If we have any onsite learning, we would no longer be able to utilize the Summer Food Service program and be required to return to site based meals. This means no more Grab and Go Meals or Meal Delivery for children 18 and under. Only those students onsite would receive food, and we will not have all students onsite every day.

If you would like to share your thoughts on this issue, you can join the Board meeting by clicking on the Zoom link on the district website under District – School Board. You can also contact me or trustees through district email located on our website.

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Filpula". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Linda Filpula, Superintendent