

## **Lopez Island School District #144**

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[www.lopezislandschool.org](http://www.lopezislandschool.org)

Brian Auckland, Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Dr. Martha Martin, Secondary Principal

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September 30, 2020

Dear Students, Families, Staff, and Community,

Fall is very much in the air as we enter week four of our Distance Learning Model. Teachers, staff, and parents have worked diligently to adjust to a new learning model for our children. Parents and children have had the opportunity to meet with their teachers in person to prepare for a successful start in these last few weeks.

Through the dedicated efforts and hard work of our Lopez community and San Juan County's virus monitoring and contact tracing, San Juan County has not had a positive COVID-19 case in over six weeks. Overall, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in our five-county region are on the decline. A topic of discussion at the forefront of my weekly meetings with Mark Tompkins and SJC Public Health Officer Dr. Frank James, include dialogue regarding just when San Juan County's public schools can once again safely have students back on campus. I am pleased to say that it appears as if we are getting closer, and that this may soon become a reality. Dr. James anticipates providing a recommendation in the next few weeks, provided that cases continue to be on the decline in our five-county region. Once that recommendation is made, then discussions with school staff will begin. Dr. James recommends that schools start slowly with In-Person learning for our younger students only (K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades) and then slowly increase. That being said, Dr. James is very clear that if we have an uptick in cases, that we would return to remote learning. Lopez will continue to be mindful of options for families, thus providing both the In-Person and Virtual learning options at the same time during this transition.

In the meantime, we will send out a survey at the end of this week to families via our electronic communication platform regarding our safe return to school. This survey will include family challenges with virtual learning, communication, technology supports and assessing those families who prefer to continue distance learning. Our goal is to have 100% participation from all of our families, students and staff in this survey.

The conversations of In-Person learning are on the horizon and as we start to prepare for our students to return to campus for In-Person learning, rest assured that the district will move cautiously and thoughtfully with the safety of our students, families, staff, and community as our top priority.

Respectfully,

Brian Auckland, Superintendent

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The Lopez Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Superintendent Brian Auckland – [bauckland@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:bauckland@lopezislandschool.org), Title IX Coordinator, HR Specialist Renee Koplan – [rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:rkoplan@lopezislandschool.org), Section 504 Academic Case Manager, K-12 Counselor Jeanna Carter – [jcarter@lopezislandschool.org](mailto:jcarter@lopezislandschool.org), OR contact by phone, 360-468-2202, OR mail to 86 School Rd, Lopez Island, WA 98261.

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