



OPERATIONAL BLUEPRINT FOR SCHOOL REENTRY 2020-21

Completed 8.10.2020

SCHOOL/DISTRICT/PROGRAM INFORMATION	
Name of School, District or Program	The Cottonwood School of Civics & Science
Key Contact Person for this Plan	Amanda Keane McAdoo, Executive Director
Phone Number of this Person	(503) 244-1697 x301
Email Address of this Person	amandamcadoo@thecottonwoodschool.org
Sectors and position titles of those who informed the plan	Amanda McAdoo, Executive Director Susan Hathaway, Curriculum Coordinator Sarah Anderson, Place-based Coordinator Kristin Krem, School Counselor Teacher Team: Morgen Kelm, grades 4/5 Emily Conner, grades 7/8 Chris Wyland, grades 7/8 Kimberley Bonder, Kindergarten
Local public health office(s) or officers(s)	Multnomah County Public Health Department
Name of person Designated to Establish, Implement and Enforce Physical Distancing Requirements	Amanda Keane McAdoo, Executive Director
Intended Effective Dates for this Plan	August 17, 2020 – June 30, 2020, unless replaced by another blueprint
ESD Region	Multnomah County ESD

1. Please list efforts you have made to engage your community (public health information sharing, taking feedback on planning, etc.) in preparing for school in 2020-21. Include information on engagement with communities often underserved and marginalized and those communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

We collected data through multiple surveys that went out to families, students and staff. These surveys informed us on our strengths and weaknesses during distance learning last spring, as well as needs and desires for this fall. As always, the community was invited to school board meetings where the plans were discussed and public comment was open. We had high response rates to our emailed surveys and followed up with personal emails and phone calls. A significant portion of the respondents identified as belonging to a historically underrepresented group or groups..

2. Indicate which instructional model will be used.

Select One:

- On-Site Learning Hybrid Learning Comprehensive Distance Learning

REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISTANCE LEARNING OPERATIONAL BLUEPRINT

*This section must be completed by any school that is seeking to provide instruction through Comprehensive Distance Learning.
Schools providing On-Site or Hybrid Instructional Models do not need to complete this section.*

Describe why you are selecting Comprehensive Distance Learning as the school's Instructional Model for the effective dates of this plan.

Since last March, when we transitioned to a remote learning environment, The Cottonwood School has worked diligently to develop comprehensive plans for a safe return to school this fall. Our leadership team and a teacher/staff committee has dedicated countless hours to information-gathering, problem-solving, and action-planning as we prepared for the fall trimester. Family input from surveys we sent out were crucial in guiding our decision making as was the guidance received from Oregon Department of Education, Oregon Health Authority and Governor, Kate Brown. The health and safety of our students, our teachers and our community have always been our highest priority.

Despite our best efforts, the current public health conditions, health risks and other barriers are such that **we have determined that the responsible decision is to not bring students back on site for the fall trimester. Instead we will deliver a comprehensive distance learning model until fall break (last week in November) and continue planning for an in-person, on site learning model, to implement as soon as it feels safe and feasible.**

In completing this portion of the Blueprint you are attesting that you have reviewed the Comprehensive Distance Learning Guidance. [Here is a link to the overview of CDL Requirements.](#) Please name any requirements you need ODE to review for any possible flexibility or waiver.

The Cottonwood School has carefully reviewed the Comprehensive Distance Learning Guidance and we feel ready and able to implement our plan without any need for extra flexibility or waivers.

The Cottonwood School is committed to providing 1) a robust, enriching, and meaningful learning environment online; 2) academic and social emotional support to help our students succeed; 3) increased academic support for families; and 4) continued planning and preparations for a safe return to the school building – hopefully after our November break.

Our Cottonwood teachers will continue to be innovative, accessible, and committed to the success of our students. And, we are confident that they will be more creative and flexible than ever, and with a clear commitment to:

- provide students with the highest quality educational experiences
- offer personalized approaches to teaching and connecting with students
- support students and families by being available through office hours, one on one connection, tutorials, and “meetings”
- ensure that all students can make academic progress
- work collaboratively with families to coordinate academic plans

All of our teachers received positive feedback from students and parents on their thoughtful delivery and dynamic approach to remote teaching last spring and they are actively sharing ideas and collaborating with each other to further strengthen this work. As we approach the school year we plan to hold information sessions online in which parents can learn first-hand about some of the innovations and plans that we have for the fall, as well as gather information to support parents-as-teachers at home.

Cottonwood will continue to use our **Core Values** to guide all decision making:

We feel that we can better adhere to our **Commitment to Place-based Education** this fall with a strong distance learning plan made early. Making a decision to begin with comprehensive distance learning for our first trimester allows our teachers to put their time, thoughts, and energy into building solid online place-based curriculum now.

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Families can expect that the learning will continue to be in Cottonwood fashion, **Deep and Authentic**. We will continue to foster student curiosity through authentic, inquiry-based projects. Students will learn and strengthen their ability to think critically and practice collaboration even while online. We will find ways to adhere to thematic, experiential, and multi-disciplinary learning, and incorporate many elements of both project-based and problem-based learning from afar. As always, we will continue to prioritize depth of learning over breadth. We plan to provide much opportunity for learning, at all grade levels, on and away from the screen.

Our teachers will participate in professional development this summer to better prepare them for creating engaging, meaningful place-based units.

We will continue to place emphasis on **Educating the Whole Child**. We are an inclusive community that strives to foster a sense of belonging and significance in each individual. We will continue to nurture resilient human beings that take responsibility for themselves and each other through empathy and compassionate action. We have found that distance learning has created new opportunities to partner with our families to better serve the needs of the whole child and we will build on these. We are looking forward to the return of our part-time school counselor who will be helping to support our community in many ways. We are currently working on ways to maintain connection through remote all-school meetings, buddy classrooms, passion clubs, whole school character trait development and more!

Our community will continue to see growth in our commitment to **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion** at Cottonwood. Our newly formed DEI committee, composed of teachers, board members, staff and parents, is actively meeting over the summer to create our priorities and mutual understandings. Our learning community will continue to incorporate the histories, perspectives, and experiences of different groups of people who are traditionally left out of school curricula in much of what we do. As a school we value different lived experiences and integrate the voices of our school-community members, while also inviting insight from our larger community and we will continue to find ways to do so remotely. In making our plans we will continue to reflect on who we serve and how we support our most vulnerable.

The aim of place-based education is to sustain and improve the health of our environment, which includes both the natural world and the human community. We believe we are adhering to our core value of **Environmental Sustainability** by making the remote learning decision early, thereby, protecting our community's physical and mental health.

In short, although we will not have our traditional in-person classes, The Cottonwood School will be redoubling our efforts to ensure what our families will have what they have come to expect and deserve: a joyful yet robust academic experience that is distinctive to our school and that addresses the most pressing issues of the day.

We will support our students academically, personally, and emotionally, while helping them navigate the remote learning environment and their school work with confidence and a sense of accomplishment. We will address the needs of all of our families to the best of our ability by providing the appropriate technology and access to other resources as needed.

Even during this unprecedented time of physical separation, we are still a community of learners and together we will find innovative, effective, and thoughtful ways of equipping our students to live healthy and thriving lives; and be the citizens and leaders our global society needs more than ever. We remain committed to supporting student success and engaging students remotely, for now, and in-person when it becomes possible.

Describe the school's plan, including the anticipated timeline, for returning to Hybrid Learning or On-Site Learning consistent with the *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance.

All Cottonwood students will participate in an online learning model from **September 8th (the first day of the 2020-21 school year for Cottonwood)** until at least November 27, which is the end of the first trimester.

It is possible that, unless COVID-19 conditions improve significantly, online learning will extend into the second trimester. We will assess all available public health information and county health metrics to help make a decision about reopening our school campus for the second trimester of the school year. We will communicate our plans no later than October 30.