

Superintendent/HS Principal:  
Tabatha Mires  
Elementary Principal/Facility Director:  
Tayn Kendrick  
Athletic Director:  
Kieth Finkbeiner  
Counselor:  
Jill Moomaw



Waterville School District  
200 E Birch St  
Mailing: PO Box 490  
Waterville, WA 98858

509-745-8585  
509-745-9073 fax  
Visit us at [www.watervilleschool.org](http://www.watervilleschool.org)

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September 3, 2020

Dear Waterville Parents and Students,

We are nearing the end of our first week of the 2020-2021 school year. I couldn't be more proud of the work being done by staff and students alike. I have had the great opportunity to join virtual classrooms, make home visits and work with collaborative groups advocating for each and every student at Waterville. Student are working hard to learn in new ways. Staff is working hard to teach in new ways. Our Shocker community is coming together in this time to support one another, to extend grace as we learn and grow together and to find the joy and hope in a really tough time for adults and kids alike.

Never has the Waterville Promise been more evident

*We believe:*

*All children have genius, and everyone is a leader.*

*Providing a strong basic education to all students is a moral imperative.*

*Diversity enhances a strong and healthy community.*

*Change starts with me, and growth is the key to learning.*

*The whole child is important.*

*All students deserve a safe, equitable, accessible and inclusive learning environment.*

*All means all.*

As we finish week one of learning, some elements of our work are right on track. For instance:

- We completed one on one conferencing with students and assigned guides to families to provide ongoing support for students.
- Staff have been trained in Edgenuity and some are beginning to utilize this tool to support online learners.
- Meals are being delivered to out of town families and served daily to in town students.

A "Leader In Me" Lighthouse School  
Cultivating Leaders Who THRIVE

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- Safety protocols and systems are in place and working to keep staff, working onsite daily, safe.
- Hotspots have been distributed to 30 kids and are working for the vast majority of students.
- Chromebook distribution and passwords have been nearly completely ironed out. This is a HUGE task in a virtual model with nearly 300 student devices and over 50 adult devices.
- Staff have worked hard to ensure solid schedules are in place and a system for schedule changes is working at our secondary.
- Tech support daily by Mr. Knemeyer from 8-9 am and Mr. Grillo from 2:15-3:15 daily is a great resource for staff and students.
- Home visits are being made to support and encourage students.
- Our highest needs students are beginning to come to campus for limited time for support, operating under the exemption granted to our school for very limited student on-site support daily. Currently about 1% of students are on campus daily. We hope to continue expanding in partnership with our health district to 5% as approved by our exemption request.
- Furniture has been moved out of classrooms and 15 desks are placed in each class for the time when we can return to face to face instruction.
- STAR assessment testing in grades 3-12 is nearly complete. This will allow us to determine learning needs for students after this extended time away from classrooms.
- Student attendance is nearly 100% in our buildings.

Some areas of struggle are continuing:

- We continue to face challenges with a few students and connection to internet. These students will be prioritized in on site learning as we are able to bring students to campus under our exemption. Teachers are working to support these students.
- Edgenuity has a backlog for students and families enrolling through us in online opportunities with this provider. This has created a slow registration process for students.
- Our youngest learners and families are faced with unique challenges in our virtual model. Staff is working hard to continue addressing these needs.
- Our internet has been a struggle for students and staff. This is true through our region. On day 1, several teachers and students faced lagging internet, dropped connections and distorted sound and video. We are working with our tech department to trouble shoot this day and night. Staff are working to do the following things to help this solve this problem. We are:
  - Collaborating with other districts to problem solve

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- Hard wiring in some teacher devices as needed
- Turning off video and/or audio when it is not needed
- Encouraging students to log off in some classes during asynchronous (independent) work time
- We would like to recommend the following for families to help solve this problem:
  - Have your child power off and restart their computer daily.
  - Encourage your child to sit as close to the router at home as possible.
  - Help your child clear their history on their device. Here's how.  
<https://support.google.com/chrome/answer/95589?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>

We are looking forward to:

- Beginning meals under the newly released OSPI guidance allowing for free meals for youth in our community. This was approved by the USDA this week. We are working to implement as soon as possible.
- Expanding the number of kids on campus daily, safely.
- Utilizing outdoor tutoring and yard lessons at student locations to support struggling students.
- Beginning to plan for unique student activities that can be held via distance through our student council and ASB.
- Beginning a weekend meal program for our neediest kids.
- Seeing rates continue to decline, allowing us to move to a hybrid model of learning, begin extracurricular, and get more kids in our buildings.

I want to personally thank you for your patience, your grace and your support for our community school. Our kids are depending on all of us to make the Waterville Promise a reality for them. It will require a stronger partnership, more consistent communication, learning and growing every day, greater trust than ever before, and lots and lots of celebrations of our progress. We are getting better at this each and every day.

Please reach out to your guide teacher (or classroom teacher in our elementary grades) if you have concerns, questions or need to collaborate about how to support your child. We are committed to each and every child and family. All truly does mean all.

My best to you and your family.

Most sincerely,

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