



91 West Valley Rd, PO Box 278
Chimacum, WA 98325



P: 360.302.5890
F: 360.732.4336



WWW.CSD49.ORG



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Dear Chimacum Families,

I hope you are doing well, and enjoying the new school year. It is great to get around to classrooms and see kids and teachers- it is the best part of my job that I wish I could do all day! This end-of-summer weather has been wonderful as well.

Thank you for your patience with our Covid response and protocols. I apologize for the ways our communications might be confusing, as I know that may cause stress and anxiety we don't intend. I will continue to work with my team to better communicate about testing, contact tracing, and other virus issues that may concern your student. There are challenges with community virus transmission that will make real-time contact tracing and communication feel chaotic.

Our layered mitigation strategies will keep students and staff safe, and our testing, contact tracing, and quarantine protocols will keep the virus from spreading rapidly when we catch cases at or close to the start of an infection.

Student Safety

You may have heard that there are some emerging safety concerns that may be affecting students and schools in social media. Specifically, there are Tik Tok videos that many children and young people access that are challenging them to do dangerous and destructive activities. The "Milk Crate" challenge invites people to stack milk crates and run over them, which is dangerous and could lead to serious injury. "Dry scooping" challenges young people to ingest protein powder, which can cause choking and serious damage to organs. Other videos instruct students in vandalism of schools, such as breaking toilets or stealing signs and Covid supplies. I encourage families to monitor their child's social media and to talk about these kinds of social media trends.

As you know, masking is a requirement indoors in schools because it is an effective part of reducing virus transmission. We regularly remind our students about correct mask-wearing indoors in order to keep everyone safe. We will continue to work with students on this issue, and provide outside mask breaks, but it is still a requirement for all students indoors, except when eating. If you have any questions you can contact your school principal or district office.

I wish you a restful and sunny weekend.

Warmly,

Scott Mauk
scott_mauk@csd49.org
(360) 302-5896

