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July 23, 2020

Dear OC Education Families,

This is a summer like no other we have experienced as an educational community. I am sure you have had to adjust vacation plans, family gatherings and recreational activities just as your child's teachers and principal have. Maybe you know someone who has battled COVID-19 or whose business or livelihood has been impacted by it. Even the ways we relate to one another have had to change.

As summer began, we all wondered if we'd be able to offer on-site instruction this coming fall. We were pleased when the governors of Oregon and Washington released guidance to that effect, and our Office of Education staff, principals, and teachers have been making the necessary preparations. Your principals have been working especially hard on Safety Plans for your children as we plan for this coming school year. For our schools located in Oregon your principal has been working on the *Operational Blueprint for Reentry 2020-21* that all schools in the State of Oregon are required to submit to the Oregon Department of Education by mid-August if they plan to have on-site instruction. For our schools located in Washington your Principal has been working to meet the guidelines from the State of Washington to have their school be as safe as possible. All of our schools have been following the guidelines of the CDC and working closely with their local Health officials.

Many things will look different. We are proud to make schools as safe as possible for the return of your child this fall. Our schools are working hard to provide safe environments for your children to learn. Our principals are also creating procedures that will help students feel that they are returning to their same welcoming and loving environments. We believe that fostering the development of the whole child — spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social-emotional is vital during this time period more than ever before. That philosophical approach means your child's entire wellbeing is our top priority.

We have held several online and regional meetings designed to assist our principals in creating their plans for reopening. Each one of our schools is unique, and the plans they are creating will be designed to meet the needs of your child and the other students in your school community. The Oregon Department of Education and Washington State Office of Superintendent periodically release updated or new guidance based on the latest information from the CDC and Oregon and Washington Health Departments. We will continue to adjust our plans based on the best and most reliable information we have available to us.

Please know that we are praying for you and your children daily and we would ask that you pray for your child's teachers and principal as well. They are working extremely hard to prepare for your child's safe return to school this fall.

On behalf of our entire Education Team, I sincerely thank you for the privilege and honor of working with you to educate your children to become more like Jesus each and every day.

Blessings on you and your family,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gale Crosby".

Gale Crosby
Vice-President of Education
Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists