



December 17, 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility during our distance learning time. This communication is to reaffirm our commitment to return students to our previous learning models (E-5 In Person and 6-12 Hybrid) on Monday, January 11. Families who chose a distance learning model for their child(ren) earlier in the year will continue to use the distance learning model.

### **E-5 Buildings**

On Wednesday, Governor Walz outlined a plan to return our E-5th grade learners to in-person learning. We will be utilizing this guidance to transition our students back to an in-person learning model on Monday, January 11. On Thursday, January 7 and Friday, January 8 our E-5 staff will be preparing for the transition back to in-person learning to be ready for our start on Monday. There will be no distance learning or childcare provided on those two days.

### **6-12 Buildings**

6-12th grade students and staff will return to school in a hybrid model on Monday, January 11. Friday, January 8 will be a transition day for 6-12 staff and no distance learning will be scheduled on this date.

### **Activities Update:**

As per the Governor's order, all activities may start practices on Monday, January 4. This includes all middle and high school activities. Every program will still have to adhere to health mitigation guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health.

### **Transportation:**

All E-12th grade learners who require transportation will resume the same transportation plan that was used previously this fall.

### **Student Nutrition:**

Meal pick up will be from 11:00am-1:00pm on December 22, January 4th, 5th, and 7th at these locations:

- Lincoln Elementary - 747 Havana Drive - Main Entrance / Door #1
- McKinley Elementary - 1050 22nd Street NE - Main Entrance / Door #1
- Wilson Elementary - 325 Meadow Lane - Main Entrance / Door #1
- Owatonna Middle School - 500 15th Street NE - Main Entrance / Door #1

■ Owatonna High School - 333 E School St - Door # 16

We have also updated our quarantine protocols to align with current MDH and CDC guidelines. The Minnesota Department of Health is still advising that a 14-day quarantine is the safest practice, but has allowed shortened quarantine timelines of 7 or 10 days when specific criteria are met. Please click [this link](#) for the form to request a shortened quarantine time.

In an effort to keep our students and staff safe and attending school, and allowing more students to attend every day in the future, I ask for your continued vigilance with regard to social distancing, masking up and refraining from attending large gatherings.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and flexibility.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Elstad  
Superintendent  
Owatonna Public Schools

**Important Links**

[Revised School Calendar 2020-2021](#)

[Owatonna Safe Start Learning Plan 2020-2021](#)