



# LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPASS NEWS

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

**"Some people think to be strong is to never feel the pain. In reality, the strongest people are the ones who feel it, understand it, accept it, and learn from it."**

This short quote is very meaningful to me right now as your Superintendent. Since March 13, when Governor Brown first closed our schools, we have been, as a community, feeling the pain. The pain of driving by a school and not hearing and seeing and feeling the presence of our kids in classrooms and on play fields. The pain of having to stay in the house, off beaches, out of our favorite hangouts, being without dear families and friends because we cannot visit them and the pain of being at Fred Meyer staring at the other shoppers as we make 6 feet rounds away from them. Masks no masks? Gloves no gloves? The pain of worrying that all of our kids won't be able to grab the 3 in 1 meals we want to give them everyday and wondering who in the prep and delivery crews will give up and walk away from it (and they don't). The pain of isolation, worry, fear, and dread that this crisis will never end and that the numbers of sick and dying will just keep on rising.

But then I listen to the quote again and I hear what it is saying: yes, we feel all this and more, but we understand it (sort of), accept it as best we can, (some days being better than others), and yes, we are learning from it. And this is what I think we learned:

We learned that Lincoln County is a community of friends. A community of family. We learned to band together and have a glass of wine on an after hours zoom meeting and let our (graying) hair down with one another. We learned how to have a Passover Seder via computer with both of our dressed up tables looking similar but not the same and still trying to keep the young ones awake as we motor through our beloved ceremony that means so much to us. We learned that teachers can do anything they put their minds and hearts to do. Even teaching kids via online and distance learning. They learned how fast they could put this brand new world together because it is right for our kids and it keeps them connected. We learned to meet in parking lots and eat together through our car windows 6 feet apart. And we learned that we are far stronger and much more loving and mighty and resilient than we ever thought was possible. We learned that we, in Lincoln County, are the champions for our kids, our neighbors, our families and ourselves.

We learned a lot. I am grateful for what you all have taught me with grace and patience.

Stay safe and be healthy. Until we meet again and I can give you all a GREAT BIG HUG!

*Karen F. Gray*

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The LCS District Compass Newsletter is a publication of the Lincoln County School District intended to inform and engage our community to support our schools. If you have any questions or suggestions with regard to content please, direct them to Kristin Bigler, LCS District Communications Specialist, [kristin.bigler@lincoln.k12.or.us](mailto:kristin.bigler@lincoln.k12.or.us)

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photo: OCCC

**Noah Lambie, LCS District Teacher at Taft 7-12 and Lindsey Johnson**

## SHIELD ME PLEASE

**Majalise Tolan, Director of Secondary Education**

LCS District loves partnerships and is happy to be working with Oregon Coast Community College and Samaritan Health Services to make medical face shields thanks to 3D printing capabilities in a project called Shield Me Please. Noah Lambie and Lindsey Johnson have been working with Samaritan on a design to support the use of cloth masks. These printers, purchased by Siletz Tribal Charitable Trust grants, have been used by students to make game pieces, gears, clocks, and now masks.

## EXPLORE 'HARMONY AT HOME'

As your family navigates the challenges and opportunities that come with learning at home, developing social emotional learning skills is beneficial to boys and girls of all ages. Many of our elementary schools utilize resources from the Sanford Harmony curriculum as part of their social/emotional program. **Harmony at Home is an online toolkit for educators, families, and caregivers.** It provides a variety of lessons and activities with easy instructions and meaningful opportunities for your family to connect, express feelings, and solve problems together.

To learn more, go to: [sanfordharmony.org](http://sanfordharmony.org)

Select the 'Get Harmony at Home' button at the top for information on how to get started!

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# #MEALS ON THE BUS: DELIVERING MEALS, LEARNING, AND CARING FOR OUR KIDS

Kristin Bigler, LCSD Communications Specialist



Shelley Moore, Principal of Sam Case Elementary hands out meals to families along the routes in Newport.

**Thursday, March 12, Governor Kate Brown ordered all schools closed to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus under the world wide pandemic. Unknown at the time, Friday, March 13 was to be the last day of school for our students this year.**

There are many factors to consider about the impact of school closures on our children - social, emotional and educational, but for rural districts like ours, it also means that our kids might not get fed. Lincoln County has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the state with one out of five of our youth living without fixed, adequate shelter. Due to the high poverty of our rural district all of our children are eligible for the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision providing meals at no charge to all students. Even without the governor's mandate to feed students the caring community of Lincoln County would not let these kids go without support.

"I remember it was late on Thursday night that Patty Graves, the Food Service Manager of Sodexo Nutrition Services, and I met and drafted a plan so that our kids would not miss a single day of meals they would normally receive during this time. We wanted to be ready to start using our buses to deliver meals starting that Monday. And we did. On Friday our plan was approved by the Superintendent of LCSD, Dr. Karen Gray. We worked all weekend, meeting with our partners and on Monday we had our plan over to the Oregon Department of Education's Child Nutrition Program so that our bus stops could be approved as meal delivery sites. We recruited volunteers and staff to support the plan and ended up delivering 3 meals to 2800 children that first day," said Jamie Nicholson, Lincoln County School District Child Nutrition Program Manager.

A regular lunch service for Lincoln County School District is around 2,200 meals serving as an indication of how great the need is in our county. Nicholson continued, "We never thought to just serve breakfast and lunch which we do on a regular day. Right away we knew we wanted to provide dinner as well, which is not required by the Governor's order. We weren't sure we could be reimbursed for this added meal by the USDA but it was the right thing to do. Dr. Gray and the LCSD Board of Directors supported this without hesitation. We are all dedicated to keeping our kids fed."

Superintendent of Lincoln County School District, Dr. Karen Gray added, "The Meals on the Bus program typifies the beliefs of the Lincoln County School District. Our district jumped on this need and opportunity faster than any other district in Oregon."

Working behind the scenes to make this happen takes a lot of collaboration and heartfelt compassion. People who didn't know whether or not they had jobs or an income. Faced fears of their own and rose to the greater good and have dedicated themselves to #mealsonthebus. Last week more than 46,000 meals were served to children.

One of the first groups making ready for this operation to happen was the custodial staff. Greg Rodocker, Director of Operations for Sodexo Custodial reported that only a handful of his staff did not come back to work full time due to health concerns. "It was all hands on deck. We have 33 people all collaborating on best practices to keep our buildings and buses disinfected." Not only are custodial staff disinfecting and repainting school and district buildings, but they also spend time deeply disinfecting the returning buses, even over the weekend (at no additional cost to the district). They wash used facemasks and towels after each shift, they reload bottles of bleach for the drivers, and they also help load up the buses with the food deliveries and do whatever is needed to support the operations.

To make and prepare the meals, staff consisting of both Sodexo and LCSD staff have 45 employees, 33 working full-time and 12 volunteers staffing four curbside meal sites and preparing food for bus deliveries. The groups are separated into three working areas to maintain social



Toledo Location #mealsonthebus Super Heroes



LCSD distributed more than 3,000 Chromebooks to students as part of Distance Learning for All

distancing such as coordinators, kitchen staff and bus drivers. Suppliers have not been significantly interrupted and food and supplies are also supplemented by local partners such as JC Market which provided packaging, McKay's Market which donated produce, Newport Bike donated a refrigerated truck, Mo's Restaurants donated food and ice chests, a private donor offered fresh eggs, Salishan donated all their food after they closed, Rogue Brewery donated food, private donors have donated cash, Celeste McEntee from Mo's in Newport recruited volunteers, TLC Fibre Credit Union set up a matching funds account, and T-Mobile donated \$8,000.

"Everyday feels like a feel good moment for me. The whole community collectively made this a success. Our community is passionate about feeding our kids but this also brings a sense of safety to our kids whose lives have been upended. We have eyes on the kids as well to check if they are okay and offer a smile and a sense of familiarity," says Patty Graves, Sodexo Nutrition Services General Manager.

Darleen Van Riper jumped right in. Newly hired as the First Student Transportation Location Manager, she started her job on February 16th. Less than one month later, she was orchestrating meal delivery instead of student transportation. "Well, I said to myself, I guess this is what we are doing now! We are still delivering and working



Custodial team painting at Taft 7-12



Sodexo employee disinfecting buses at Newport Middle School

full time. Just a different set of riders." She and Sarah Hibbs, Transportation Liaison for Lincoln County School District worked long hours to combine routes for efficiency and sustainability along the PM schedule which had the largest number of riders. Currently, there are 76 drivers employed by First Student delivering meals.

"You know, at times, our bus system gets flack from the community and one of the best pieces of this outreach is to see how our bus drivers are now seen by the public. They are recognized as heroes and greeted with smiles and waves," remarked Sarah Hibbs. To maintain an efficient system the food service, bus service, and custodial services are holding virtual debriefs on a daily basis due to the changing protocols coming from the Governor and the CDC. It is important to note that we are not just delivering meals, she added, "The buses and the curbside meal sites are key for us to get information and devices out to our families. Our system is used for Chromebook distribution,

supplemental and distance learning packets, school supplies, and sharing information verbally with families. I am proud of the district as a whole."

Katey Townsend, the Lincoln County HELP and McKinney-Vento liaison works tirelessly with her team to provide for our most vulnerable youth in the county. In her opinion, "The Meals on the Bus Program is a sanity saver for many parents and a highlight of the day for students.

Many families do not have the ability to keep their fridges full or go shopping on a regular basis. Some families live in RVs or are camping with limited refrigeration. Having meals delivered is saving trips to the grocery store and is helping with social distancing. Also, for single parents, this is often saving trips to the store when they normally would have to be taking their children with them. During the busy day, working parents may not have time to prepare nutritious meals for their kids. There is so much to juggle right now with working, childcare, students' education, etc, so this really is a relief. The kids love going to get their meals from the bus and seeing friendly faces. All the staff making this happen are so cheerful and caring!"

Dr. Karen Gray, Superintendent is grateful and proud of our work, "All I know is that hundreds of kids and families wait for our meal boxes each day knowing that they will be served with loving kindness and care. And they are delicious to boot! My thanks goes to the more than 100 people a day that prepare and serve these 3 in 1 meal boxes (some of them with yummy chicken and Mo's clam chowder) each day and with those meals, comes a generous helping of love and best wishes."

We are proud of our #mealsonthebus program and thank all of our community partners, volunteers, and staff who are making it happen for our students.

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE #MEALSONTHEBUS

by Mark Farley

Back when the kids were going to school – the school's lunch was always a topic, "It's gross, the milk tastes funny, I don't have enough time to eat, the cheese is weird, I don't like [fill in food noun here] and they serve it all the time"

Now, to be fair, they said exactly the same thing about the sack lunch we used to pack them.

And then came along the plague...

Now meeting the school bus to get a school sack lunch is the most exciting event of the day! And the food? The kids gush about it – It's the best!

Every day the neighborhood starts thrumming with excitement as the noon bus delivery time nears – and everyone emerges from their homes.

Accompanying parents slowly wander down the street towards the bus stop while the cooped up kids run back and forth and around in circles.

From a distance the gathered crowd appears like a small and tall tribe of Meerkats waiting at the corner, peering intently down the long street hoping to catch the first glimpse of yellow.

When the bus turns the corner everyone starts lining up in anticipation. The kids love seeing the familiar faces of teachers and staff from their previous pre-plague realities and when they each receive their bagged lunch they hug it to themselves and rifle through it to see what that day's prized food item will be.

The bus lunch delivery is a phenomenal program – We are grateful that the school district was able to pull it together so quickly. It keeps our vulnerable families fed and checked on and acts as a life-line of daily connection in these bizarre and isolated times.



Mark Farley's son, Noble Farley, and wife Commissioner Kaety Jacobson, at pick up for #mealsonthebus

## RESOURCES

- LINCOLN.K12.OR.US/RESOURCES/FAMILY/HOMELESS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO IT ALONE



COMMUNITY SERVICES CONSORTIUM  
HOUSING ASSISTANCE  
541-574-2280  
ENERGY ASSISTANCE  
888 -



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
541-265-2248  
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE  
FOR NEEDY FAMILIES  
GOVSTATUS.EGOV.COM/OR-DHS-BENEFITS

IRS ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT  
IRS.GOV/CORONAVIRUS/GET-MY-PAYMENT

STATE OF OREGON  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
OREGON.GOV/EMPLOY/UNEMPLOYMENT

OREGON HEALTH PLAN  
541-265-0430  
OHP.OREGON.GOV



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

IDE  
541-265-8578  
FOODSHARELC.ORG



LEGAL AID SERVICES  
OF OREGON

211INFO.ORG  
CALL 211 OR TEXT ZIP  
CODE TO 898-211



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# CELEBRATION 2020



**Jose Cortez-Segura**  
Taft 7-12, Valedictorian

Thank you all for a great four years, even if we knew one another or not, whether we were friends or not, I wish you all a great future with the best of luck and many achievements. Thank you Class of 2020, we are the best.



**Ayden Woodward**  
Taft 7-12, Salutatorian

Class of 2020, we've always shaken everything up and this year has been no different. As we move into our separate futures let's continue to shake things up and cause change to happen.



**Tanaya Barnhart**  
Toledo Jr. Sr. High, Valedictorian

I would like to tell my fellow classmates that I loved each and everyone of them. We went through 12 years of life together. Having to comfort ones on hard days, stand up for each other, and support one another. Everyday I came to school and felt at home. I was never worried, because we were family. We aren't like other schools. We have a bond that is so strong nothing can break it. I'm proud to say I graduated from Toledo High and I'm even more proud to call the class of 2020 and each class above and beneath me my family.



**Kaycie Otis**  
Toledo Jr. Sr. High, Valedictorian

To my class I want to say: Thank you for the past 4 years. There's been so many memories that I will remember for a life time. They say 2020 class will go down in history because of the Virus, but our class would have been remembered without that. I wish you all the best!



**Maddy Hall**  
Taft 7-12, Valedictorian

Though time are tough, as a class we will persevere. The sun will shine on us once again and we be able will celebrate our accomplishments together.



**Leta Main**  
Toledo Jr. Sr. High, Valedictorian

I didn't know our last moments of senior year would be over texts or FaceTimes, that our high school journey would end so soon. Even though we don't get to have the last moments, we get to keep and cherish the memories from years prior and we sure did make a lot of memories. We left a huge impact at Toledo high in sports, leadership, talents and individual personalities. I love the quote 'It takes all kinds of kinds to make the world go round', I think that's why our class made such an impact on our community because we are made up of all different kinds of people. I'm happy I got to know each one of you and I know you will do big things!



**Rylee Richards**  
Toledo Jr. Sr. High, Valedictorian

I know that the last few steps of our ladder have been taken right out from underneath us, but I know that we will have no trouble in jumping right over them. My class is a group of resilient, talented, and unique people who are going to do big things in this life, with or without those last few months we were supposed to spend together. Granted, we were thrown in to the next big chapter of life without any kind of warning. However, if there's any group of people I would want by my side as I enter the next part of my life, it's you guys. No matter what, we were in this together four years ago, and in we're in it together now. Thank you for everything, and I am so proud of you all!



**Mahala Fisher**  
Toledo Jr. Sr. High, Salutatorian

It's been one crazy year but we made it! I wish you all the very best.



**Napela Napoleon**  
Taft 7-12, Valedictorian

We all hopped on this rollercoaster 4 years ago expecting a wild time. And though the ride broke down on the last hump, I still think we had a good time together.



**Kiersten Piontek**  
Waldport Middle & High School, Valedictorian

I'm really proud of my whole class. I'm sad our senior year was cut short, but I'll always cherish the memories we made together. I wish them the best of luck for the future.

# CELEBRATION 2020



**Chas Walch**  
Waldport Middle & High School,  
Salutatorian

Because of how small our school is, I've had the pleasure of growing up with my class and forming a family type bond with them. Most of the students in my class have been by my side since kindergarten and we all know so much about each other. I know that if I was backed into a corner I could call any of them to come help me out, and I hope they all know I would do the same for them. I can honestly say our class is the funniest, hard working, artistic, and most personality-filled group of kids you could find, and I am just so proud to be a part of that.



**Audrey Vanderhoff**  
Newport High School, Salutatorian

"Problems and pancakes are alike. They both stack up and make messes when sugar-coated, whether in syrup or excuses. They both go away, one is solved and the other is eaten. And both are needed, because life would be boring without problems and empty without pancakes."

The class of 2020 knows the following well, the strength to overcome challenges and the reward of the experience because we've all had our problems and our pancakes.



**Tristan Scarborough**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."  
– Dolly Parton



**Erin Watanabe**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."  
– Winnie the Pooh



**Nikolai Krutzikowsky**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

Thank you to all the seniors for making an unforgettable highschool experience.



**Liam Versteeg**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

Guys. I'm so bored. I miss you all.



**Enrique Garcia-Ramos**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

Continue to persevere and let adversary bring out our strength. Life goes on, stay positive.



**Grace Hargett**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

The past four (or three and a half) years have been absolutely amazing. They've been full of memories (that we probably took for granted) that we will remember forever. They have been challenging and full of hardships, this one especially. None of us expected that this would be how our senior year ended, but I believe we will learn to value the moment before it becomes a memory.



**Dakota Rundell**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

I am remarkably thankful and proud of the class of 2020 and I am excited to see the futures that are waiting for us.



**Noah Goodwin-Rice**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

This isn't how any of us wanted our senior year to end. But if there is any silver lining of the current situation, it is that we have been forced to consider our future lives more carefully than ever before. Let's not let that go to waste.



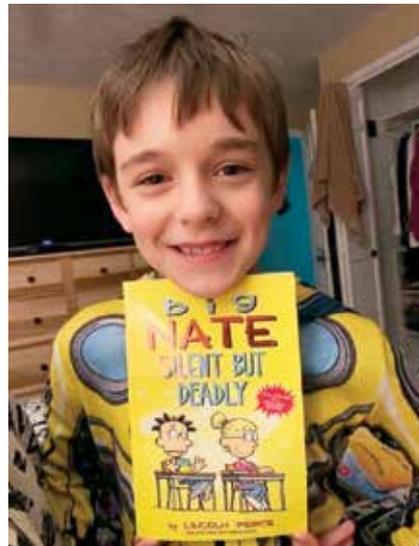
**Chris Lee**  
Newport High School,  
Valedictorian

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" – Wayne Gretzky

# LIFE AT A DISTANCE IS NOT LIFE APART

Kristin Bigler, LCSD Communication Specialist

Our teachers, our parents/guardians, our community and our kids are finding ways to express how much they care and appreciate one another. From Distance Learning, to Virtual Spirit Weeks, to Boosters flocking the school with signs about how much they love our teachers, to handing out caps and gowns curbside. Here are some fun images from our days under quarantine around the district shared on our social media.





# #BETHELIGHTOR



## Newport High School

#bethelightOR is one way for a community to come together to celebrate the Class of 2020 and all students who are missing out on important milestones in school this spring. In these unprecedented times, be the light. – Reyna Mattson, Principal

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! As you transition from the three R's to the three P's -Perseverance, Purpose and Passion, hold tight to all the special memories in past years and embrace your future. – Liz Martin, Vice Chair, Board of Director, Zone 2

It is my hope that you find fortune in your lives and that in a time that is to be remembered, you are the class that we remember. – Ron Beck, Board of Director, Zone 3



## Siletz Valley and Eddyville Charter

Siletz invited us to share in their lights since Eddyville doesn't have any. It was a really incredible event and an inclusive feeling. – Stacy Knudson, Principal of Eddyville Charter

All of our seniors really came together to support one another during this unrepresented time. There was an outpouring of care, cooperation, collaboration, and camaraderie between our school family to make sure all were able to pass. The year 2020 will have a lasting impact on their lives. We wish them the very best that life has to offer. – Sam Tupou, Principal of Siletz Valley



## Taft 7-12

On behalf of the staff at Taft 7-12, I would like to say congratulations on completing your requirements for graduation. We miss you and although it is unfortunate that we cannot celebrate on campus we will be planning ways to honor your accomplishment. We wish you the best in all your future endeavors. – Nick Lupo, Principal

For seniors, their parents, and for us too, we feel like the celebration has been turned off—that the lights at the party were suddenly and unexpectedly turned off without any notice. It's confusing, and disappointing, and sad. But in the year 2020, where hindsight is everything, instead of focusing on what we're missing out on, let's instead focus on what we've accomplished. Those bright stadium lights were turned off too soon for every senior across the state, and for Taft's spring athletes looking forward to their final spring season, but rest assured, just because the season may be over, our love of Tiger sports can never be extinguished. We might not be able to celebrate in person, but your light is shining, and the spotlight is on you. – Matt Hilgers, AD/Assistant Principal

Class of 2020 will be known as virtually the strongest, most resilient, and most unique graduating class in a generation. I know everything is uncertain right now and this is not the commencement you expected, but we are still here to support you. You are doing great and everything is going to be ok. – Megan Cawley, Board of Director, Zone 1

Career Tech 2020 graduates, we are so proud of all that you've accomplished! You've persevered to overcome adversity both in this challenging semester and in years past in order to earn your diplomas. We know that you will continue to achieve great things in your future endeavors as you continue to adapt to and learn from life's challenges. As you go forward, please remember Henry David Thoreau's words, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." – Rebecca Bahr, Education Supervisor for Career Tech Charter HS



## Toledo Jr. Sr. High

Congrats Class of 2020! We are very proud of how much you have achieved and how resilient you all are. You are leaders and have made this school the amazing place it is today. We miss you and hope you are staying safe. Be kind and stay classy Boomers! – Richard Ceder, Principal

"Live each day to the fullest, get the most from each hour, each day and each age of your life. Then you can look forward with confidence and look back without regrets." These words were passed onto me from my grandmother when I was much younger. They were important to me during my senior year and have wisely carried me through the 30 years since my graduation from the Lincoln County School District." – Jenny Demaris, Board of Director, Zone 4



## Waldport Middle and High School

With #BeTheLightOR we honor our Waldport HS seniors as a beacon of solidarity that signifies our commitment to our students and our community. Together we will continue to shine through this difficult time. Let this light be hope and assurance that you are in our hearts and on our minds. Here at Waldport High School, we want to say thank you to all of our students and especially our student-athletes who have to date not had a spring sports season. We miss you and look forward to seeing you again in the future. – Steve Cooper, AD/Assistant Principal

Class of 2020 – This is the year you have been dreaming of! But definitely not the way you dreamed it would be. Don't let that diminish the moment! Enjoy your accomplishment! Enjoy all of life's moments, however they come! Life's difficulties build character, strength, perseverance, and heart! Great qualities to have as you venture out to do great things with your lives! You all make us so proud! Congratulations! – Amanda Remund, Chair, Board of Director, Zone 5

All images provided courtesy of Cohen and Park Portrait Studio

**"We know all of these kids and we wanted to produce images of the stadiums which, in a way, symbolize the heart of the high school experience. We wish all of them the best."**

– Megan Schain of Cohen and Park