

Letter to the Editor

On June 10, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education published their “Ready Schools Safe Learners” guidance document. This 46-page blueprint is the driving force behind getting our students back in school. While we may not agree on what school will look like in the future, I hope we can agree that our kids need school. Our staff miss their students and we are working hard to create a safe educational environment that meets the requirements in this document.

With so much unrest in the country right now it is reassuring to know there are so many wonderful people supporting our schools. If I tried to list all of those that have helped these past few months I would inevitably miss someone ~~ but a HUGE THANK YOU to all. The “Ready Schools Safe Learners” guidance is daunting and there are several sections that are beyond my area of expertise. Harney County Emergency Management, Harney County Health District, Representative Owens, and Judge Runnels have been instrumental in planning for the safe return of our students.

We need your input too. While we might wish for school to be the “way it used to be” ~~ I don’t see that happening. However, the creativity and determination of our teachers and staff is beyond amazing. I just know that we are going to be able to provide an outstanding educational experience for our kiddos.

We have posted a very short 5 question survey on our website and encourage all of you to take it; kids or no kids, your opinion matters. Go to www.harneyesd.k12.or.us and click on the REOPENING SCHOOLS survey tab.

I am the eternal optimist and look forward to a time when I turn on the news and see “good things happening”. For now, I am choosing to avoid the news and look for those stories and opportunities to see all of the GOOD that we have right here in Harney County. Happy Fourth of July everyone!