

Friends and parents of North Mason. Welcome back to another school year. Everyone says, "these are unprecedented times." Indeed, they are. With the rates for Covid 19 at unsafe rates in Mason County and beyond and the safety of our kids being a necessary condition of their education, school this year, for the most part, will be online. I am going to miss greeting the kids at the door at Sand Hill when they come in for the first time and at Belfair when they leave in the afternoon. My board colleagues, fire and police, and community members form an annual greeting line to welcome the kids back and give each of them personally a high five. Maybe some year we will invent an on-line greeting board where community well-wishers can gather to tell the kids, and teachers, how important they are and how our community has their back!

Everyone, of course, has questions about just how we are going to do things. If you are a parent or childcare-giver take a minute to go to our web site to orient yourself to how we are handling familiar things in a new way.

<https://www.nmsd.wednet.edu/News/478#sthash.HrWGhI7B.Qy4FxNCJ.dpbs>

In this short space I would like to stress a special point that has been of concern to our teachers, administrators and our school board. *We want to ensure quality instruction and equal access to its resources to all.* In our new regime, computers will be as school busses have been to the traditional one—the common vehicle by which everyone gets to school. Because not everyone has access to a computer our district is doing all we can to get laptops to those who need them. Since even with a computer not all have access to wifi signals we are taking steps to have several places around town where wifi will be available.

This link will take you to all the hot spots in the community.

<https://www.pud3.org/service/in-your-community/pud-3-public-wi-fi>

Our teachers and staff have thought through everything we have learned from last year and are well prepared for the school year ahead. As parents, care givers and community members, each of us knows we discover almost every day something for which we must make on-the-spot provision because of the pandemic. In this necessarily stressful time, let us show mutual good will, courtesy and civility toward one another. Here is a motto worth keeping in mind from the Civil Rights movement: "We Shall Overcome," and an adage from Jewish wisdom "This too shall pass." Friends, Be of Good Cheer,

John Campbell Position #4