

December 2, 2021

Dear Hogan Cedars Families,

The safety of your child and all children in our school as well as the safety of the school staff is very important to us. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children to study and learn, it is necessary that we practice our emergency and crisis response plans by having drills designed to exercise our procedures. Your children and our staff practice emergency drills each year. Each type of drill is explained below.

FIRE DRILLS

Hogan Cedars conducts a fire drill each month that school is in session. We want each student to understand and be aware of the importance of this drill and not be afraid when the fire alarm is sounded. By practicing, students will know what to do and how to do it.

LOCKDOWN and LOCKOUT DRILLS

Hogan Cedars will conduct a lockdown and lockout drill this school year. This type of drill will secure the school building and safely shelter all students and staff inside the building. The purpose of this drill is to keep the students safe from any danger outside or inside the building. During a lockdown or lockout drill, all of the perimeter doors to the school will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter the building or leave the building until the drill is complete.

EARTHQUAKE DRILL

An earthquake drill is conducted each school year. The purpose of this drill is to be prepared to move to a safe location within the building.

These safety practice drills are done to help maintain our school as a safe place to learn and work. This year, we have already practiced four fire drills and will be conducting a lock down drill during December. Please reference the [Standard Response Protocol Parent Handout](#) for further information.

If you have any questions regarding these safety drills or other safety concerns, please contact me at 503.261.4500.

Here are some Important Updates and Reminders:

Mask Update

On November 23, 2021, Governor Brown and representatives from the Oregon Health Authority announced a change to current mask guidance.

- Masks outdoors at GBSD schools and programs are now optional.
 - This change applies to recess, outdoor instruction, and outdoor PE.
 - Parents are asked to continue to wear masks as often as possible when around

students and certainly when inside of the school.

- Masks remain mandatory indoors.

Remain diligent in all other mitigation strategies. If spread increases substantially the Governor/OHA decision could reverse their decision.

With the new mask guidance, masks are optional during recess for Hogan Cedar students. On Monday, December 6th, Hogan Cedar students will be able to pull their masks down below their chin or put their mask in their pockets during recess. We recommend you send a second mask in case your child misplaces their original mask during transitions during recesses. Students will still need to wear masks during arrival in the morning and during dismissal in the afternoon.

COVID Vaccine

As you are aware, children 5 years and older have access to the COVID vaccine. If your child has received his/her COVID vaccines, please let the office know. We will update the records for you. Two weeks after his/her second shot, your child will be fully vaccinated and will not have to quarantine if he/she is exposed here at school.

Parking Lot Safety

For the safety of our students, staff, and families we must ask that you not park or use the side parking lot during the hours of **bus drop off and pick up. 8:00-8:45 am and 2:45-3:30 pm.** Children who are released from a car and walk through the parking lot are at great risk of being injured. Also, when cars are moving around in that lot, our buses cannot navigate as they need to.

Volunteers

Many of you have asked when you can begin volunteering at Hogan Cedars. We are able to allow volunteers into our building beginning next week. However, you must have current volunteer and vaccination status cleared through the office before you begin. If you are unsure if you are current on your volunteer status, please feel free to call Heidi Kaplan in the office at 503-261-4500. If you need to apply, read below.

Online Volunteer Application Form and Application Process

Our volunteer application process includes a criminal history background check. As you fill out the application, please be sure to give us as much information as possible. Some fields are required (as indicated by a red * symbol). If you are having difficulty filling this form out, please call the district office at 503-261-4550.

Please note, volunteer applications may take up to two weeks to process.

[Click here to BEGIN the volunteer application](#)

We'd like to thank you for filling out this application and we are especially grateful for your interest in volunteering to help our students and our school.

Educationally yours,

Heidi Blakley, Principal
Hogan Cedars Elementary

Dates to Remember

December 20-31	Winter Break-NO SCHOOL
January 3	School Resumes
January 11	PTSO Meeting, 6 pm, via Zoom
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr Day-NO SCHOOL