



15920 Vashon Highway SW Vashon, WA 98070  
[www.harborschool.org](http://www.harborschool.org)

## Notes from Mark – Emailed on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **Q: Do we plan to open the school building and have students come to school at the start of the 20/21 academic year?**

A: Harbor School will excitedly open its doors to students next school year *when* we are legally allowed to do so *and* we can meet the health criteria as laid down by the state of Washington.

#### Context

Governor Jay Inslee ordered all public and private K-12 schools in Washington closed in March of this year. He later extended that closure through the end of the current school year. It is the Governor, in conjunction with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), who will indicate how and when we can reopen and under what conditions we can operate. Obviously, Harbor School is following the educational conversation carefully and is positioning itself to respond to whichever scenario unfolds in the fall.

The **Board Health and Safety Advisory Committee** has been formed to address the health and safety of our families, our students, and our faculty during this pandemic. This committee is already working to assess potential scenarios. They will help the school ensure that a return to the building in the fall, will be in full compliance with all state of Washington health and safety regulations.

-----

### **Q: If the school buildings are open for learning but my child is unable to return in the fall, will you offer a mixture of remote and in-person learning?**

A: Yes! Harbor School is absolutely committed to offering remote learning to students who are, for whatever reasons, unable to return to either campus if we are open in the fall.

#### Context

Even if the school is officially open in the fall, there are countless reasons why your child, or groups of children, may not be able to return to the school buildings on either campus. This may be because of limited capacity laid down by Washington State or because of personal family situations.

Harbor School is quickly moving forward with plans to provide a remote learning experience for students in any grade who are unable to come back to school in the fall. **The Board Technology Advisory Committee**, recently formed to address the current situation, is meeting regularly to ensure that both campuses have the capacity to allow students to log on to classes from home.



15920 Vashon Highway SW Vashon, WA 98070

[www.harborschool.org](http://www.harborschool.org)

This will allow everyone to stay connected to the school community and to continue to learn alongside their peers and with their teachers.

**Q: What will school look like if we cannot open the school buildings for learning in the fall and we have to start the year with remote learning?**

A: The faculty have already begun to work on new schedules for remote learning for all students. These will be ready to go in the fall and I will share more specific details about these in the next weeks. These new schedules will be rooted in the balanced model for remote learning that we have already shared with you.

#### Context

The new remote learning schedules for the fall are being built from our experience and your feedback over the last two months.

We are considering what we have learned about

- how to get the best work out of our students
- how to keep them engaged
- how to ensure efficient use of time for all students and their families
- how to have the right amount of screen time

We are also considering

- how to engage all of our new and existing students with getting to know each other and their teachers
- how to set expectations for the learning and behavior of all students
- how to continue with some of the important start of school year traditions and experiences

For students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we have also begun to brainstorm the many ways in which we can recreate parts of our traditional Camp experience in a remote manner.