

The sooner we reopen our schools, the better it will be for our students. They have lost a full year of learning in all their subjects and a full year of music and sports activities. My 8th grade grandson has lost touch with his friends, and he is angry about his isolation. As a retired Corvallis elementary and middle school teacher, I know that grade 8 is where social skills develop dramatically. If we open schools tomorrow as we should, I believe we will need to have additional counselors on hand. Weakened, despondent, and frustrated students may need help to regain their confidence and positive attitudes. We should expect that some students may act out. This should not be viewed as misbehavior. It's a reminder that students will need time to readjust and to debrief the harsh and overbearing guidelines that have resulted in such meager attention to their needs.

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