



District Administration Office

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Brookings-Harbor Voices PSA - Air Quality

Hello, this is Sean Gallagher – Superintendent of Brookings-Harbor School District here to talk to you about how our school district has addressed air quality concerns from the Chetco Bar Fire for the safety and health of our students and staff.

As fall term began, Brookings-Harbor School District was one of many school districts across the Western United States affected by wildfire smoke and related air quality concerns.

Our school district formed an air quality advisory team that included our District Nurse, Athletic Director and myself to monitor daily air quality reports generated by federal and state agencies and local experts — as well as make regular visual observations at the school sites and athletic venues.

This team has used a data-driven approach to issue timely updates to our staff teams when conditions begin to trend toward unhealthy levels. When air quality begins to deteriorate, these updates include actions that must be taken immediately by staff based on Oregon Health Authority guidelines, such as curtailing outdoor recess, physical education classes and outdoor lunch; cancelation or rescheduling of activities and athletics; and cancelation or closure of school. So far, there have not been any days when the air quality has caused a cancelation of school or after school activities.

We hope that the worst of the smoke is behind our community as fall rains return and fires across our region reach higher levels of containment, but we are prepared to act if poor air quality returns. If you have any questions or concerns about the school district's air quality monitoring plan you can read more on the district website, and don't hesitate to reach out to your school principal, school nurse or myself for more information.

By putting safety first, we will ensure that Every Student Can Succeed!