



March 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Good afternoon and happy Saturday! Hoping this finds you and your families healthy and safe!

The last two weeks have certainly been fluid and challenging for us all. I know that you, as parents, are juggling work, childcare, health, family...the list goes on and on! Even though Mrs. Richardson and I are now "empty nesters," we both are working from home and can appreciate the challenges of being restricted to one place most of the time while sharing that space with our four pets. All of that being said, one very important item we must all monitor is our mental health. Stress can be a real factor in these uncertain times, and we at MA hope to help you manage any anxiety you or your students may be experiencing as we begin e-learning on Monday.

Below, I will list some bullet points on how the e-learning process will flow in grades K-5 but first, I would like to address our school's expectation for our parents and students as we embark on this adventure together. First, and foremost, we do not want to create more stress! Everyone involved must realize that this is a new journey for us all and there will be opportunities for improvement and change as we progress.

Even though our teachers and staff have worked very hard over the last two weeks to put these learning platforms together, they will not be perfect. Each and every household will have different circumstances regarding childcare, jobs, number of students, devices, etc. We get that; it's called life, and we are resolved to help you navigate these obstacles. If your student can't make it online one day, fine. If you need to take care of your regular job and can't help with homework, it's ok. Need to take a break...perfectly alright. Give yourself some slack, be patient, and ask our staff for help when you need it.

Our counselors, Mrs. McComb and Mr. Cunningham, are available, if needed. Mrs. Hastedt, our GT Coordinator, is a fabulous resource, and our wonderful Librarian, Mrs. Collier, has virtually unlimited access to learning resources. Our highly competent Tech ladies, Ms. Ross and Mrs. Weber, are always available to assist. Together, I'm confident we will get through the remainder of the school year just fine.

Now, let's look at some key points for the e-learning program:

- Program will commence Monday, March 30th.
- You will be using sites your students are familiar with i.e. *Canvas* web page, *SeeSaw*, *Kahoot*.
- Content and lessons will be posted by 10:00 a.m.; most teachers will post well before that time.
- The majority of lessons will be brief, 10-15 minutes.

- Every grade will have at least one homework assignment each day. This is how we will record attendance, so it is important that these are completed and turned in. If your student cannot complete the assignment but was in class, simply notify your teacher.
- Each teacher will have established “office hours” where they will be available to you or your student each day, Mon-Thurs.
- Fridays will be designated "Teacher Workdays" which we will use for planning, meetings, and professional development. Teachers will not be required to have office hours on Fridays.
- We will be taking grades, but most likely not as often as we did in class. You may see some teachers opt for "Participation" or "Pass/Fail" grading.
- If you need additional resources, your teachers have posted numerous links on their class pages, *Facebook*, etc.

I believe we have touched on the most important topics for now. I know I speak for the entire staff when I say how much we miss seeing your students each and every day! At this point, I even miss carline. 😊

Here's hoping that all remain healthy and safe during these difficult times and may we return to “normal” very soon. Be smart, wash those hands, and hang in there; we're going to be alright!

Mr. R

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