



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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www.ashby.k12.mn.us

April 17th, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

It's hard to believe that we have already completed our third week of distance learning. Even though I feel we have been having some success through distance learning, I can safely say that we would much rather be back in school with all of our students and the same would be true for students wanting to be back with friends and learning in a way that they are used to.

With that being said, I am reminded of what I used to tell the football players before every game. Control the controllables. None of us want to be in this situation, however, none of us have control over that either. What we do have control over is how we respond to what is happening around us. I feel confident in saying that our community has once again proven that regardless of what is going on, we can support each other and rally around the school and community in amazing ways.

Over the last three weeks, teachers have been busy creating lessons, developing videos for instruction and trying to accommodate the needs of each student. Students are learning new ways to manage their time, become more independent learners and to continue to find ways to interact with peers and teachers. Parents are being asked to do it all and we thank you for your efforts in teaming with us to make sure all of this comes together at home.

We realize our system isn't perfect, which is why we sent home surveys today to gather as much information as we can to help us make this process better. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and needed in this effort. Every student and parent's voice helps us create a better experience for you. If your family hasn't received a survey through Clasdojo or Seesaw, you can locate it on our website under COVID-19.

A couple of reminders :

- Students in grades 6th-12th are reminded to check in to all of their scheduled classes in Google Classroom each day to make sure they are keeping up on assignments from one day to the next.
- I want to thank all of the elementary families that have transitioned to Seesaw as a new learning platform. I realize that adding this on top of everything else has added an additional challenge, however, I know that moving forward this will be a better way for students, parents, and teachers to communicate.

Seesaw looks a little differently for middle school and high school students, not only in how it will work with multiple teachers but also in how we use it. When we transition to Seesaw for the middle school and high school, it will only be used for parent and teacher communication as we already use Google Classroom for student

work and collaboration. We are not intending to start using Seesaw with middle school and high school families quite yet. We are still working on organizing the program to fit the needs of the high school staff. Before the end of the school year, we will attempt to get all middle school and high school families registered for Seesaw. We would like this tool to be operational by the end of the year so that we can utilize it to share information about the next school year and any potential changes throughout the summer. I will keep all of you updated on this process.

- ❑ A link was sent out to students in grades 9th-12th this morning to complete a mock registration for next year. Please remind your child to complete this as soon as they can.
- ❑ Ashby School is one of more than 200 schools across Minnesota to be involved in the #BeTheLightMN effort, to recognize seniors in the Class of 2020 and to show love and support for students of all ages that were forced into distance learning and away from schools to combat the spread of COVID-19. The goal of the #BeTheLightMN campaign is to show that the lights serve as beacons of hope for students, school staff, and community members. We will be turning the lights on Monday nights at 8:20 or for those of you familiar with military time 20:20 for 20 minutes to honor this year's seniors.

Please do not gather in the parking lots near the lights, to avoid congregating! You are encouraged to view the lights from afar and to turn your porch lights on in support, and to maintain proper social distancing. The lights at Ashby Field will be turned on each Monday evening at 8:20 pm until further notice.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we know that there continues to be feelings of anxiety and uncertainty regarding distance learning and the likelihood of returning this school year. We share those feelings with you and want you to know that regardless of how long this continues, we will do our best to make sure we support our students and families the best way we can. By working together, I know that we will get through this. Keep up the good fight and remember to take some time to enjoy each other's company and spend quality time together as a family. For those of you parents with seniors in the house, cherish this extra time as it too will go by fast. I will keep you posted on potential graduation plans in the near future.

Have a great weekend everyone and be well.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School