



# Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

**ISD #261**

**Ashby Public School**

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April 3rd, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

The first week of distance learning has quickly come and gone. Well, maybe more quickly for some than others. We wanted to reach out to update you on what has been happening here at the school as well as thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this new learning platform.

It was expected that we were going to have and continue to have bumps in the road in regards to distance learning. On Monday, we were quickly aware of immediate technical difficulties not only on our end but also with the companies that are serving us on our digital platforms. As the week has gone along, the technical issues appeared to be occurring less frequently. I attribute this to the work being done at the national level with our learning platforms and the work being done here at school and with you at home as you learn to navigate the programs on your own.

We appreciate the positive feedback we have been receiving regarding the meals and creative lessons teachers have been sending home, but I also want to recognize those of you who are struggling with this transition. Everyone has a different comfort level with technology and a schedule to be able to offer support to your students. Many of you are working during the day while your children are at home navigating school work and some of you have young children at home that already take up so much of your time. On top of that, we are balancing the uncertainty this virus can bring to our community and the financial challenges this has brought to many of our households as well.

It is important that we stay connected. It has always been my goal to increase the level of communication between our families and our teachers. Now is the time for all of us to do our parts in making that happen. Continue to reach out to your children's teachers or the district office when you have questions. We are here as a resource and are wanting to help in any way that we can.

There are a couple of items I want to address for next week and moving forward:

- The next two weeks will be short instructional weeks, as we will continue to recognize our school calendar and not have school on April 10th or the 13th. On those days, the school-age child care will not be available. We will be having discussions early next week on how we will handle the meal service on the days we will not be in school and I will get back to all of you early in the week so that families can make arrangements if necessary.
- Families that are currently accessing the school-age child care program are asked only to utilize this program when necessary. It is our goal to limit the number of people in and out of our school at this time to limit potential exposure and keep our

- students and support staff safe. If children are able to stay at home please do so.
- ❑ Students in grades 6th-12th are reminded that even though an assignment may not be given every day for each class, students are expected to check in to all of their scheduled classes in Google Classroom to make sure they are keeping up on assignments from one day to the next.
  - ❑ Students are asked to complete their attendance check-in with their first-hour teacher each day as we are required to track our attendance just as if students were still in school.
  - ❑ Our office hours will be changing starting next week. Our office will only be staffed from 7:00 am until 3:30 pm Monday - Friday. Should you need anything outside of those office hours, please leave a message and we will get back to you in the morning, or contact us through ClassDojo or school email.
  - ❑ Though these are uncertain times and the future of how this school year will end is unclear, it is clear that our objective to educate our students to the best of our abilities remains intact. Though this transition to distance learning is challenging, we encourage our students and families to approach it with the same intensity as if they were attending class here at school. The likelihood that we will be back in school this year is becoming slimmer and slimmer, which means that we need to make the very best out of this current situation. We intend to give our best in teaching you and encourage families to give us all they can as well within their current situations at home.

We are looking forward to connecting with our students again next week. It was easy to see how excited many of our students and teachers were to reconnect. You are all missed. We will connect with all of you next week! As usual, if you have any questions or concerns please call us during our office hours.

Have a great weekend everyone and be well.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore  
Principal  
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann  
Superintendent  
Ashby Public School