



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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April 9th, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

Congratulations on finishing another week of distance learning. I hope that as time has gone on, families have found a way to create a schedule so that this process has become more manageable. As we go forward, we will continue to adapt and modify our processes and procedures so that we continue to meet the needs of all of our students and families.

Throughout the last two weeks, the feedback we have received from families is that we all continue to be at different places in our comfort level with this new learning platform. It is important to us that we continue to receive your feedback to help guide us through this journey. Starting next week, families with students in grades preschool through 8th grade will be receiving an email from myself and Mrs. Anna Johnson asking a couple of questions regarding how distance learning is going. It is our goal to provide consistency from one class to the next and also to ensure that all of our student's needs are being met.

Students in grades 9-12 will also be receiving a similar email with a survey asking similar questions. We are aware that students in high school have their own voice and we want to hear from them. Our goal is to have every student and family respond to this survey each week. We understand that this adds one more thing to everyone's plate, however, we feel the data we will be collecting from these surveys will be essential to our goal of improving our instructional practices throughout the duration of distance learning.

A couple of items I would like to address for next week and moving forward are:

- As I stated last week, we will continue to recognize our school calendar and not have school tomorrow, April 10th, or Monday, April 13th. On those days, the school-age child care will also not be available. Meal deliveries for tomorrow have already been delivered and as a reminder, meals will not be going out on Monday but will continue next Tuesday.
- Families that are currently accessing the school-age child care program are asked only to utilize this program when necessary. Families are only to use this service if both parents and or guardians are working that day. With the extension of the stay at home order from Governor Walz, it will continue to be our goal to limit the number of people in and out of our school to limit potential exposure and keep our students and support staff safe.
- 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.
- As students become more comfortable with utilizing Zoom and Google Meets for class, we want to remind you that though you are learning at home we expect that students are dressed appropriately for being on video chats with teachers and

classmates. If it wouldn't be acceptable on a school pajama day, it wouldn't be acceptable during a Zoom meeting.

- As I stated in an earlier message, we have been working on transitioning our district communication tool from ClassDojo to Seesaw. Many elementary classes have already made this switch and have been using the program throughout the distance learning period. It is expected that all students in grades preschool through 5th grade are using this program by the middle of next week. As of today, the Seesaw integration from our student information system Synergy has now been completed. We are going to start the process of uploading parent cell phone numbers next week. When this happens, you will receive a message asking you to complete a series of steps to finish registering for the program. There is a free app to use once you have registered through our text message. Once you have completed the steps for one request, all of your student's classes will appear on your dashboard. I will keep everyone posted on this process and how it will be utilized once all of our staff have been properly trained.
- In the coming weeks, we will continue to move forward with getting students registered for classes, make plans for graduation and try to create a sense of normalcy out of this unprecedented time in education. Students in high school can expect Mrs. Johnson to reach out to you to schedule a Zoom meeting where you can have a 1 to 1 meeting discussing class options for next year. In the meantime, students can expect an email from me with a Google Form with potential class options for next year. Many of you have completed this form prior to us leaving for distance learning. I have made a couple of changes to the form based on those results. Mrs. Johnson will use these results to start the conversation with each student regarding their plans for next year.

Thank you again for all of your patience and hard work during this time. I have no doubt that we will get through this as long we continue to work together. I am reminded every day how special this school and community are. We are Arrows through and through.

Have a great weekend everyone and be well.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School