



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School
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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

March 17th, 2020

Good afternoon Ashby families:

Over the last couple of days, the staff has been working hard coordinating programming for students and identifying potential needs as we move forward with this unusual challenge.

We wanted to clarify, bring forward and expand on a couple of pieces of information:

- Students will not be required to participate in any distance learning from March 18th - March 27th; however, some elementary teachers will be sending home activity packets to offer families and students options for when they are home and looking for something to do.
- Though our goal was to send home students with everything they would need for distance learning, we know that additional resources will be needed and to prevent us from sending unnecessary items home, we would instead do the following:
 - Create pick up dates and times for families to collect resources when they become available.
 - Families would have the option to have these resources delivered through bus routes when available.
- All families qualify for a free lunch, breakfast and snack option through our school. We currently are creating routes to deliver meals starting on Wednesday, March 18th. If your family would like to participate in this program, please call the school or notify your student's teacher. Families living in town will be given a pick-up time to collect their meals.
- All healthcare workers or full-time emergency management workers qualify for free childcare during the hours of 8:00 - 3:30. The Before School and After School Programs will continue to be offered for those families attending the childcare program; however, our fee structure for those programs will remain in place.
 - Transportation is available to qualifying students during normal school hours. For example, bus routes will begin at 7:00 am and depart from the school at 3:30 to return students to their homes.
- Not all families currently have internet access. We are working with local providers and national providers to make internet available to all Ashby Public School families at no cost or at a more reasonable cost so that our transition to Distance Learning becomes easier to manage. We will be sending home potential internet options to you when they become available.
- Clasdojo has been a communication tool for our district by classrooms for quite a few years and more recently has become a district communication tool. There have been limitations in using this platform that has made the management of content and users challenging. We had plans of moving to a new provider next year, but due to recent events and the capabilities of the new program, families should look for information on a new product in the near future. It has been piloted in one of our classrooms this year with much success.

- ❑ Needs will continue to arise as the weeks go on. We want all families to feel comfortable reaching out to us when they need to. A link will be available on our website that will allow families and students to reach out to the school if they need help. Within the Google Form, families can indicate that they are looking for education support, social and emotional support from our counselor, financial support, where we can point people in the right direction for available resources and general education questions, timelines, etc. Look for this to be available in the next couple of days.
- ❑ We know that having children at home can be challenging and that children respond well to structure and routine. We will be providing a mock schedule of what your day could look like to ensure that your kids remain on a schedule as much as possible. A link to these resources will be available on our website in the next couple of days.

As I stated in an earlier message, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we develop a plan that works for our families and students. We continue to participate in meeting with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health to keep up to date on all of the current information surrounding COVID-19.

We will be sending out more information as it becomes available.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School