



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

March 27th, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

Monday is the start of a new normal for the students, families, and staff of Ashby Public School. Over the last week and a half, the staff has been working with new technology, modifying instructional delivery models and coming up with new and creative ways to interact with our students in the coming month or two.

We know there are a lot of questions regarding distance learning and what that will look like for your children and for you as parents and guardians. We understand the anxiety that surrounds this new concept and want to assure you that we will ease into this new learning model. Though the staff has had some time to prepare the last eight days, distance learning is new to us as well and anytime someone begins something new, it is advantageous to take a cautionary approach.

Like starting a new school year, teachers will begin our distance learning by teaching the processes, rules, and expectations of our new learning model before we dive into content. We want students to feel comfortable using the technology they have at home and give them time to develop a new routine for instruction and school work.

Traditionally, the staff has had the advantage of having the students in front of them to help motivate and direct them through instruction. Distance learning is going to put parents, guardians, and students in charge of ensuring there is space and time for instruction, limited distractions, and that a schedule is in place to keep students focussed and engaged.

We understand the added pressure this creates for parents and students and want you to know that we are here to support you any way that we can. Always contact us with questions or concerns. Staff and administration are available and willing to provide resources, guidance, and a lending ear to those who need it regardless of whether you are a student, parent or guardian.

For Monday, please keep the following information in mind.

- ❑ Ashby families will have supplies and technology delivered to their homes using our bus routes Monday morning. Most of the materials being sent home will be for students in grades PreK-5th grade, however, there will be a couple of items for some other grades as well. If you will not be home, please leave a waterproof container near your front door so we can leave supplies in a safe place. Within your supplies will be an Ashby logo you can attach to your container for future use to make the container more visible to our staff delivering materials at a later date.
- ❑ Meal services will continue to operate throughout the school closure period. All Ashby School families regardless of income are eligible for free meals. Families

who have not signed up for this service and would like to begin participating can call the district office during our office hours or leave a message on our answering machine. As with the material drop off, all families who are receiving meals are asked to put a cooler or box near the front door for staff to leave the food should you or your child not be home. A label will be left to attach to your box/cooler so that it will be more visible to staff moving forward.

- ❑ School-age child care will continue to be available to families who have jobs that fall into either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 categories. These lists can be found on our district website under COVID-19. Students who are participating in this program will be able to work on their school work during their time at school. We ask that parents please keep your child home if they are showing any symptoms of the virus to keep our staff safe and healthy. Families that are already participating are asked to leave your student's projected weekly schedule with the office at the beginning of the week so we can properly staff the program.
- ❑ Teachers will be taking attendance every day. Elementary families will work with their student's classroom teacher for attendance. First hour teachers, who have students in grades 6-11 will create a way to have students check-in for the day. Students will be notified of how teachers will do this on Monday. Students will have until midnight of each day to check-in. Seniors will check in with their fourth-hour teacher as it is the only class they all share.
- ❑ Students can expect teachers to have daily lessons posted by 10:00 am each morning and will be available for questions until 3:00 pm each day.

We know that this transition to distance learning is going to be challenging. We want you to feel at ease knowing teachers will be understanding and flexible with students knowing that each child is in a different situation and has varying responsibilities at home during this time. In return, we ask that you offer us the same understanding and flexibility as our teachers take on this new challenge. Our staff has and will continue to do what is best for our students.

Though we are as nervous as you are to begin this new chapter, we are also very excited to be reconnected with all of our kids. Ashby School does not feel the same without our students in the halls and classrooms. You are 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.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School