



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

May 1st, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

As each week of Distance Learning comes and goes, we continue to learn more about the process, its effects on students, families, and staff and how we can continue to provide and meet the needs of everyone involved. I want to thank all of you again for your patience as we navigate these times and encourage all of you to fill out our parent surveys that are coming at the end of each week. This data continues to help guide our instruction and the services we provide.

As we enter the last month of school I want to share a couple of reminders and updates

- Communication between students, teachers, and parents is important. Unlike a normal school day, teachers don't have the ability to gauge a student's understanding of the material during the lesson, keep them focused, or more importantly to be able to analyze a student's overall well being. Our student and family surveys are showing us that distance learning is taking its toll on even our most high achieving students. We ask parents of all aged students to frequently check in with their kids. We need your help in keeping our students' spirits up.
- As frustrating as Distance Learning can be, we ask that you continue to encourage your children to do their best. Students pick up on your frustrations just like they do with ours when they are in our classrooms. Let your children vent about how they are feeling, but make sure to follow up with something positive, reminding them that this too shall pass and things will get better. Encourage them to work hard, ask questions, and make the best out of this situation.
- Make room for fun! If students were in school right now, we would be looking at going on field trips, spending time outside, and participating in extracurricular activities. Leave room for this in your house and encourage your kids to go outside and be active.
- Though Zoom meetings are not required, they are important for reasons other than academics. We are seeing through our student surveys that students miss spending time with teachers and friends. The face to face interactions and conversations with peers during these meetings provide a missing piece to a normal day in a student's life at school. For younger students, I encourage families to reach out to each other and set up virtual playdates for your kids. Allow them to have conversations with their friends outside of the school setting.
- Back on an academic note, we are trying our best to get students registered for classes. Parents with 8th-11th grade students are asked to remind your child to set up a meeting with Mrs. Johnson. This information was sent to them in Google Classroom.
- We have hosted a few meetings this week with staff, students, administration and board members to plan our graduation for this year. Along with our seniors, we want to celebrate the end of the school year with all students. Look for more information

on this in the near future.

- ❑ As we get closer to the end of the school year, we are looking at timelines for collecting school textbooks and devices. Our goal is to start collecting textbooks from 6th-12th grade students after the week of May 15th. Students will continue to work through the remainder of the school year using their school device, though the textbooks will not be needed after that point. We have not figured out all of the logistics on this yet but will notify families as soon as we do.
- ❑ Device pick-up/drop-off is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th. More details on this will be coming soon.
- ❑ We know that some families have questions ranging from Google Classroom to class registration and so on. We will be hosting a Zoom meeting with Mr. Moore, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Steenblock on Monday, May 4th at 7:00 pm to answer any questions parents might have. The link will be posted on our website.
- ❑ There will be a senior parent meeting on Zoom on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm to talk about graduation plans and to answer any questions senior parents may have. I will send a Zoom link to parents as soon as I collect all of your email addresses.

We will continue to stay in touch over the next couple of weeks with any new updates. Until then, remember to embrace the extra time with family, take advantage of the nice weather when we have it and continue to support your kids in all that they are being asked to do.

Have a great weekend everyone and be well.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School