



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

300 Birch Avenue

Ashby, MN 56309

218-747-2257

SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Alan Niemann

aniemann@ashbyps.org

218-747-2257 ext 105

BUSINESS MANAGER

Ms. Renee Melby

rmelby@ashbyps.org

218-747-2257 ext 106

PRE-K-12 PRINCIPAL

Mr. Jonathan Moore

jmoore@ashbyps.org

218-747-2257 ext 104

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Mr. Andy Peterson

apeterson@ashbyps.org

218-747-2257 ext 114

SCHOOL BOARD

Chairperson

Suzanne Wing

Vice-Chairperson

Corey Johnson

Treasurer

Dallas Rylander

Clerk

Leslie Anderson

Director(s)

Ben Johnson

Kirby Spangler

Heidi Hoff

WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

May 8th, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

Even though we are teaching and learning during this unusual time, the idea that summer is drawing near is a comforting feeling. Had we been still conducting our education within the walls of our school, students would be spending more time outside, exploring, going on field trips, and wrapping up all of the work they have been focussing on for the last several months. I say this because if parents are feeling like it is becoming more and more challenging to keep kids focussed on a bright sunny day, you are not alone and it is completely expected. Remember to allow students more breaks, give them time to be outside, and enjoy the time they do have with their class in Zoom meetings if they are able.

There are a couple of updates that I would like to share with all of you as we wrap up another week:

- Our official last day of school is May 27th, however, with our unusual learning platform, the two days after Memorial Day will be spent collecting student devices. You can then expect that distance learning will end on May 22nd and school staff will be finishing up collecting student devices and leftover materials on the 26th and 27th of May.
- We are still working on the logistics for collecting all of the student textbooks and other related learning materials the week of May 18th - 22nd. I am hoping to have a clear plan put together by the middle of next week. At that point, I will be reaching out to all families clearly laying that plan out.
- Our annual Awards Banquet will be delivered through a virtual format. We will be putting this together over the next week and sharing it with families. We wish we could celebrate all of our students' successes together, unfortunately, social distancing guidelines make that impossible at this time. We will do our best to recognize our students the best way we can.
- Today, MDE and MDH laid out guidelines for graduation. The timing on this was poor as many districts, like ours, had already put plans in place. Our current plan doesn't fit into the guidelines that were shared with us today, forcing us to go back to the drawing board. We will be meeting with seniors early next week to come up with another plan to send off our seniors the right way.
- On graduation day, we are still planning to host a parade to celebrate the seniors. Unlike a traditional parade, we will be having our seniors be the only people in attendance and the parade will consist of family friends and community members. Details on our parade can be found on our social media accounts.
- Grading for elementary families will look different for the fourth quarter. Families can expect that instead of letter grades, report cards will contain a narrative describing the fourth quarter through distance learning.
- Grading for high school and middle school students for the fourth quarter will remain the same as the previous quarters, using the traditional letter grades. We are working

with students to keep them up to date with their work to make sure their grades accurately reflect their work considering the situation. Flexibility and understanding is at the forefront of our grading practices throughout this distance learning period.

I want to give one final thank you to the parents that joined us at our parent Zoom meeting on Monday. I am hoping that we were able to answer any questions you had. We ask that all families continue to fill out our surveys so we can end this year on a positive note. Thank you for all of your continued support and hard work at home with your kids.

To all of our Ashby mothers, have a Happy Mother's Day and to those of you going fishing, good luck and be safe!

Have a great weekend everyone and be well.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School