

March 19, 2020

To the Greenwood School Community,

As you may know, this afternoon Governor Holcomb ordered all school districts to close until May 1st in response to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, I wanted to share some preliminary information with you regarding the plan for how school will look through May 1st.

We will utilize a combination of waiver days (days of no student instruction) previously granted by Governor Holcomb and remote learning days to provide instruction for our students. **The schedule is attached in a separate document with this email.**

Our teachers and administrators will utilize the week of March 30th to more formally prepare for remote learning. The philosophy underlying the three day remote learning week is to allow all of us – administrators, teachers, students, and parents to build stronger capacity to do all we can to lessen anxiety as we move to this new instructional delivery.

As we prepare for remote learning, two words come to mind that I ask all of us to keep in mind – “Grace” and “Patience”. I ask for grace and patience for our administrators and teachers who will be doing the best they can in less than favorable conditions to deliver instruction. I ask for grace and patience for our parents who will be worrying about working or even keeping their jobs, scrambling for childcare, and helping their children navigate an instructional delivery that will be new. I also ask for grace and patience for the expectations by all of us on our students. Some students will be placed in needed caregiver roles and attempting to “do school” for themselves and their younger siblings. Some of our students will be worrying about getting homework tasks completed on time while trying to understand how to best operate in this new learning world.

We will release more detailed information on remote learning and related school district operational issues next week. We know there will be plenty of questions. I just wanted to inform you for now on how we are planning for the upcoming weeks.

On March 30th, we will begin providing breakfast and lunch for students to supplement their nutritional needs at home. This will take place at Isom Elementary. Meals will be available for drive-thru pick up Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Again, more specific details will be released next week.

Finally, I told our staff earlier this week that I am hearing words and phrases such as “unprecedented”, “never in my lifetime”, and “I’ve never seen anything like this.” There is much uncertainty for all of us both personally and professionally. I do know though the conviction of the “The Greenwood Way”. Our school community is a large family that will take care of one another and rally in the toughest of times. I am confident that our 550 employees, 4,000 students, and our parents “got this”. This will not be perfect and let’s all understand that all of us are doing “life” the best we can.

With much grace and patience promised to all,

Kent DeKoninck, Ph.D.