



March 17, 2020

Dear District 95 Parents,

Soon I will be sending a video message to all secondary students (grades 6-12) clarifying a number of questions that I have received from parents and students alike in regards to our eLearning days, including attendance and grading. I hope this message will help students understand the importance of their participation and cooperation in their own education along with the commitment and dedication of our staff to all District 95 students.

Here is the full text of my message to students:

Dear District 95 Students,

I want to first thank you for your incredible participation in our eLearning experience for all students in K-12. I think it is important for me to tell you that 98.3% of our high school students logged on to Canvas for learning and 99.5% of our middle school students also logged on to the system. Way to go!

This would not have been possible without the incredible amount of work by District 95 staff, who helped us to successfully roll out an eLearning experience for all of you! Be sure to thank your teachers when you are communicating with them during school logged-in hours tomorrow!

I also want to take this opportunity to provide clarity around questions that you may be asking about the continuation of required eLearning. Let me make this clear to everyone: The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has directed all school districts that we are to continue the learning of all students served by our district. The newest communication provided today from the Governor's office, which very CLEARLY states that all districts should provide the continuity of education. Based on the guidance of the State to extend learning for all students during this closure, District 95 students will continue to participate in eLearning experiences. You ARE expected to continue with your eLearning work while schools are closed except for during our previously scheduled Spring Break.

We will never forget our purpose or stop trying to provide learning to our kids. We exist to serve you, and we will continue to do what is right. Our District's MISSION is to empower every learner to achieve personal excellence, and we will continue our learning efforts to achieve our mission and commitment to YOU. Please know that I am NOT willing to compromise on our support and responsibility to our students.

You may have heard that the days of March 17th, 2020 through March 30, 2020 were declared Act of God days by the State of Illinois. An Act of God day is used for a condition beyond the control of the district that poses a hazardous threat to the health and safety of the students. I also understand that the State has indicated that these Act of God days do not count as

District 95 Administration Center – 832 South Rand Road - Lake Zurich IL 60047-2459

Phone: (847) 438-2831 FAX: (847) 438-6702 www.lz95.org

instructional days that would be added to the calendar at the end of the school year. While that may be true, as I have already stated, it is our moral responsibility to make sure all students continue to receive learning experiences and are taken care of to the extent possible. So please let me be clear: We will continue with our eLearning plan as a means of providing extended learning for our students, because our values of continuous improvement, high expectations, integrity, and perseverance will not be compromised and we care about your well being and education!

ATTENDANCE

We want to check in with students each day to understand if you are missing any information to continue your learning as well as to provide a daily well-being check. We will continue with attendance practices that were shared in the eLearning plan. Our goal is to continue to care for students throughout this process.

GRADES

I know there have been questions about grading and assessments during the time our schools are closed. I have told all of your teachers that they can request that you share evidence of your understanding of the learning they are providing you. Teachers will be providing you feedback on your learning. If you had any missing or make-up assignments prior to March 17th that your teacher is expecting you to complete, please do so, as these remain graded assignments. Your teachers know that no formalized grades will be issued on work during March 17th – 30th (Act of God days); however, you need to know that teachers will expect you to demonstrate mastery of all learning once you return to school.

Most importantly, if you need help or if you are struggling to keep up, please just talk with your teachers. They will help you!

So what does this mean?

- Participate in the learning and do your best.
- Be respectful of all of the work that is being done to help and support you.
- Keep doing the right thing.

We hope to be back to school and in-person learning together as soon as possible. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

Dr. Gallt, Your Superintendent

As a parent of four children, I understand and empathize with how challenging it can be to keep teens motivated and engaged in learning. I also know it is equally hard to help curious young learners adjust to learning outside of a structured classroom setting. These are especially hard times for all families, whether you are trying to work from home or worrying about what employment may look like over the next several weeks. I want you to know that I am committed to do my absolute best as your superintendent to continue providing learning experiences while also demonstrating kindness,

compassion, and understanding as some learners will find success easier than others with online learning.

We have always considered you a partner in your child's education. As I have told staff each day since eLearning started, *YOU GOT THIS, and WE GOT YOU!*

Please continue to just do your best, and we will all get through this together. Be safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelley Gallt
Superintendent