



Dear Parents,

Good morning. I hope you and your family are doing well and that you are beginning to adjust to the new normal that we are all experiencing. I know what a hardship it is for families to make these adjustments and that some are also experiencing devastating changes to their work lives, as well, losing jobs or experiencing temporary financial hardship.

CHILDCARE FOR EMERGENCY WORKERS' CHILDREN

Please know that Minnetonka Schools will continue to provide childcare and nutrition services for emergency care workers' children during Spring Break and beyond throughout any remaining school closure time period.

SCHOOL LUNCH FOR PICK-UP

We will also provide school lunch for pick-up at a Minnetonka School District Van parked at the following sites Monday through Friday during Spring Break and beyond through the entire school closure time period:

11:00 am - 11:30 am - Minnetonka Heights - 5809 S County Road 101, Minnetonka, MN 55345

11:45 am - 12:15 pm - Stratford Apartments - 18900 Stratford Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm - Excelsior United Methodist Church (parking lot) - 881 3rd Ave, Excelsior, MN 55331

E-LEARNING TO BEGIN APRIL 6

We have received questions from families about how long the school closure will last and whether we will be back in school after Spring Break. To clarify, we will not be physically returning to school after Spring Break; we will begin our e-learning efforts on April 6 with students and teachers at home. Further, students in the childcare program will be able to do their e-learning while they are at the childcare site. Principals and teachers will be sending information to parents next week about what e-learning will look like for students and what the specific expectations will be.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

President Trump just announced schools will not be doing the standardized testing required by Federal law (MCA's) through the end of this school year. We are waiting for the Minnesota Department of Education to provide any more specific information about this change in expectations. We will also be providing information about IB, AP and ACT testing, as that becomes available. Check our COVID-19 Web pages on the District Web site for updates on that testing.

RETURNING PHYSICALLY TO SCHOOL

We have no immediate date in mind at present when school will return to 'normal' with students and teachers in our schools and buildings. We will make that decision in the next few weeks (or perhaps sooner), as to whether we will all physically return to school for the remainder of the school year or not. The Governor will be giving all schools in Minnesota direction regarding his expectations for the duration of closing.

SPRING EVENTS

We are also considering several upcoming large events, such as the Celebration of Excellence districtwide awards event, and, of course the Class of 2020 Graduation, and we are building out alternative plans in case these are not able to go as originally planned. As soon as we have determined how we will proceed with each event, we will share that with you.

DISTRICT UPDATES

The COVID-19 Web page on the homepage of the District Web site is updated with the very latest information from Minnetonka Schools for parents, so please check that Web site regularly. Please also email teachers and principals with questions. They are all checking email regularly.

Thank you for helping to make this transition to e-learning an easier one for all. Your partnership is critical in our ability to successfully implement our e-learning plans and to move forward as a strong and cohesive school district community.

These are unprecedented times, and we are humbled by the generous words and offers of support, your patience and kindness and the genuine caring that so many of you have expressed to our principals, to our teachers, to our staff and to me.

Be well and safe.

Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools