

Lakeland Joint School District #272

Dr. Becky W. Meyer, Superintendent of Schools

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LJSD Vision: A community committed to academic excellence ... dedicated to student success.

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Let me begin by saying how much we miss all of our students. I would like to thank everyone for your kindness and support during these trying times. The sudden change in our daily routines has been difficult for everyone, but especially for kids who don't understand the reasons why their world is suddenly turned upside down. They miss their teachers, friends, and a sense of normalcy. For parents, I am sure it has been difficult to find the balance between several competing demands. We understand that protecting the health and safety of your families is your top priority right now. Our staff is trying to honor these unprecedented life demands while providing our students educational access in a new remote distance learning system. I understand it is a lot to take in and manage all at once. This is creating frustration for folks as we build a system to support our students in uncharted territory and we certainly don't want to increase the stress on our families. We are going to do our best to provide schoolwork to keep our students' minds moving forward, but you are the parents, so you have control to adjust as needed for your child/children.

In order to help our families, I have asked teachers to focus on the following:

- **Slow down and focus on the connection with students** - right now, connection with students is our top priority.
- **Allow grace for our students** - everyone is dealing with a lot right now. Let students know we want them to have the learning tools available, but we are still working on a fair way to assess student learning, give credit to student work and effort, but not overwhelm students with the mass of assignments online, and differentiate for students not yet connected to the content and format teachers have provided. This is a difficult situation and we are still awaiting legal guidance on grading protocols from the state.
- **Assure students that we understand the competing demands in life right now and are not trying to overwhelm them, just trying to provide learning opportunities for them.**

Chromebook Checkout after Spring Break

Because education has been identified as an essential industry under Governor Little's Executive Stay Home Order, we are able to move forward with the distribution of Chromebooks. This allows us to work toward providing access to technology for all of our students.

- For every student who takes a device home, we will need a parent signature. **Insurance is optional and there is an option to opt out** on the form. The insurance costs \$20 per device. This limits the out of pocket costs for damages, should there be any. The insurance brings the cost of replacement to approximately the same cost a family would pay if a textbook was lost or damaged.
- If you choose to purchase insurance and the device is returned at the end of the school year without damages, this insurance policy will roll over to the 2020-21 school year without the requirement to pay \$20 again.
- Please understand, the insurance is optional and we will still check out devices to families who choose to opt out. If students arrive at distribution locations without a signed form, your principal will contact you to arrange for an alternate time for you to pick up your child's device as we cannot send it home without a parent signature.
- Every student in grades 7-12 who does not have access to technology at home can check out a device to use during this unprecedented school closure. We will only be able to provide one Chromebook per family for elementary students and one each for secondary students. For example, if a family had two elementary students and one high school student, the family could check out two Chromebooks; if a family had one elementary student, one in junior high and one in high school, the family could check out three Chromebooks.

Below you will find dates, times, and locations for the distribution of Chromebooks. We would appreciate it if you could go to your home school for checkout. However, if the date or time doesn't work for you, please feel free to go to one of the other locations to better accommodate your schedule. During the distribution, we will adhere to the Governor's directive for social distancing and ask that we try to maintain the 6-foot space. We recognize that the process of distributing Chromebooks could take some time and we appreciate your patience as our staff works to get people through as quickly as possible. If you arrive and notice several people in line, you may want to wait in your car for the number of people to diminish.

Schedule

Monday, April 6

- ❖ 7:00 - 10:00am
 - THS & LJHS
- ❖ 3:00 - 6:00 pm
 - LHS & TJHS

Tuesday, April 7

- ❖ 7:00 - 10:00 am
 - All 6 elementary schools
- ❖ 3:00 - 6:00 pm
 - All 6 elementary schools

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school so staff can work with you directly.

Thanks for your support and understanding - we appreciate your patience as we plan to provide the best service possible for our families. I love how our district takes care of each other during times of struggle and I truly believe this is the only way we will get through this difficult time.

Much Gratitude, Dr. Meyer, Superintendent