Dear Cottage Lake Families,

Happy Sunday and Happy Easter, for those of you who celebrate. I hope you did have a moment to enjoy our “staycation” during our Spring Break. I cleaned out part of my mom’s garage and also clipped my dead bushes at my fence line. That was great satisfaction! I’ve also enjoyed having my daughter home from college, despite the circumstances. Between her class Zoom sessions and homework, we’ve enjoyed cooking together and we continue our battle with Gin Rummy. I’m still proving to be victorious. ;)

I want to take a very important moment to thank those of you who are first responders or essential workers during this time. Whether you are working at the hospitals, fire, EMT, or police, to grocery store workers, to the food industry, to our faithful delivery drivers... THANK YOU for all you are doing!! THANK YOU for giving yourself daily to care for others. THANK YOU for being our Heroes!!

**EXTENDED CLOSURE THROUGH END OF SCHOOL YEAR:**

Over Spring Break, we receive the saddening news from Governor Inslee and Superintendent Reykdal that our school buildings will be closed for the rest of the school year. While I am not completely surprised by this announcement, it didn’t lessen the sting of the news either. I’ve shared several phone calls, and many texts with our staff who are also so very sad with the news. There is such a feeling of loss with the news. The feelings are real and I encourage you to support your child(ren) through these emotions they might be having. There are so many questions to be answered in the next few weeks and I will share those with you just as soon as I can. What I will tell you is we are NOT looking at retaining students due to the school building closures. I have been working with staff to think through those essential standards still left to be taught this school year and looking at how we can get creative to teach these standards over the next 10 weeks.

**NORTHSHELLEARNs 2.0.... RELAUNCH:**

Beginning tomorrow, we are excited to launch our Northshore Learns 2.0 again. [https://www.nsd.org/covid19/northshore-learns] Moving forward, we have 10 weeks of learning ahead of us. To maximize this learning, it is important to set expectations for all students during this distance learning. Attached to this email, you will find a S.A.I.L. matrix that you can review with your students. If students are violating the expectations, staff will reach out to them and talk about the decisions they are making. I will also be notified. If the behavior continues, I will reach out to the student, along with you, to talk
about the behaviors and how we can resolve them. I thank you for your support and review of the matrix.

As I just mentioned, staff have been working together to identify the key standards at each grade level, in Reading, Math, and Writing. We are also looking at ways of incorporating Social Studies and Science, as well. Our specialist teachers have also been reviewing their own standards and planning for instruction from there. I am excited about this upcoming learning.

Please know I recognize the challenges, as well. You at home have shifted to a huge level of support for your students, while also balancing your work demands and household demands, as well. You are caring for social-emotional needs, you may be supporting extended family, and you might also be supporting through sicknesses. THANK YOU! You are also our Heroes! Thank you for the support of our distance learning and providing grace as teachers improve this practice over the next several weeks.

The outline of our work will look much the same to the week right before break. Teachers will be delivering content/standards instruction on M/W/F in the morning. There is a 90 minute block of time, yet, that is not intended to be an entire block of direct instruction. Teachers may chunk that time with students and also provide independent tasks during this time, as well. We have gained clarity over break that teachers can also reach out M/F afternoons, between 1:00-2:30, and Wednesday afternoons between 1:00-1:40, to check in with students or small groups. This is also an Office Hours time where you can reach out to staff, as well. Our specialist teachers will continue to post content and lessons for students to review on their designated specialist days. (Monday = Library; Wednesday = Music; and Friday = PE)

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL:**
Since this is the way school will operate for the rest of the school year, it is our expectation that students are online, as much as possible, in the morning during their academic instructional time and then engage in specialist time, as well. We highly encourage students to join the Zoom or Teams video opportunities, and submit work as staff have outlined. When students are present in class meetings, instruction and submit their work, we can provide feedback in a timely and effective manner.

Thank you all for your continued support as we completely shift our school model online. We will still be making phone calls to students and families and I ask that if you are in need of additional support, please reach out to me. I am here for each of
you! Please don’t forget about the **FREE lunch program available to anyone 18 years old and younger** (enrolled in Northshore or not). You need to register the evening prior, but there are some great lunch options for your students. Remember, these are your tax dollars at work!

**NEW CLASSROOM LOCKS INSTALLED IN ALL CLASSROOMS:**
Speaking of tax dollars at work, during spring break, all our classroom locks were changed and **updated to the new safety locks**. All teachers will be given new keys when we can return to the building. The new locks allow for doors to be locked from the inside and removes the need to open the door to lock it or to remove a magnet. We were part of Phase I for this work. During Phase III, our push-bar doors and doors that reside between classrooms will be upgraded to new locks. Thank you voters for being committed to the safety of our students!

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:**
I want to remind everyone we are still accepting Kindergarten registrations for this upcoming 2020-2021 school year. All registrations are online and can be accessed at [www.nsd.org/enroll](http://www.nsd.org/enroll). If you know of anyone who will be five years old by August 31, please have them register soon for Kindergarten. Our Cottage Lake’s Kindergarten numbers are fairly low at this time and I am beginning to work on staffing our school with remarkable teachers for next year. Registrations matter. :)

Thank you, Cottage Lake community!! We are strong. We are committed. We are together. I miss you all SO.VERY.MUCH!! I can’t wait to see student’s faces beginning again tomorrow during video calls and when I also stop into small groups. Please reach out if I can be of support to you and your family.

In partnership,
Jennifer Welch, Principal