Dear Cottage Lake Families,

Hello and Happy Sunday to all. I hope you all enjoyed a great weekend. It was nice to get a little rain on Saturday and it looks like we may also get a little more this week. I would love some of this pollen to be gone, but I LOVE the sunshine!! <3 I enjoyed a little backyard patio time this weekend and hope you also found something to feed your soul, as well.

As many of you knew, Mrs. Hanning is expecting her baby very soon. Starting tomorrow, April 20, we do have a long-term sub for her. I am excited to share that Tiana Shuford will be joining our Cottage Lake community!! Mrs. Hanning is looking at taking 4 weeks off and during this time, Ms. Shuford will be teaming with Ms. Lynn to provide music instruction for your students. Ms. Shuford is currently a Music teacher in the district, working at both East Ridge and Hollywood Hill. I am so grateful she was also willing to add Cottage Lake to the schools she supports. Ms. Shuford has been working in the Music Google site and she may pop into a Zoom session, if she can. Ms. Shuford will be focusing on supporting 3-5th grade, while Ms. Lynn will be supporting K-2 and FSA and Sensory. Please help me welcome Ms. Shuford to Cottage Lake!!

I have included a few new sections below to our newsletter. Please look at them carefully and do let me know if you have questions.

**PARENT INPUT FORM FOR CLASS PLACEMENT CONSIDERATION:**
Each year, we create a class input form, but this year it is digital, like the rest of our world. This form is similar for students at Bear Creek, Cottage Lake, East Ridge, and Sunrise. We met earlier this year and aligned the form and decided to create one that we could all use for our families.

Please visit this embedded Google form link to complete the [2020-2021 OPTIONAL Parent Input form](#). Please know this form is NOT kept confidential and WILL be shared with classroom teachers as they work on placement for next year in the following grade. We do NOT take into consideration specific teacher requests. Specific teacher requests will be discarded. Lastly, there is always a possibility we might have a split/multi age class. This is especially due to being a small school. Grade levels parents will not be contacted directly if we need to create a split/multi-age classroom. Please add your comments for your student within the link above.
For families joining us from Bear Creek, teachers from Bear Creek will be assisting in class placements for next year, as well. Whenever possible, I will try to pair students with other good student connections also joining us from Bear Creek. Please contact Jen Welch, Principal (jwelch@nsd.org) with specific questions.

REPEAT...NORTHSHORE LEARNS 2.0…. RELAUNCH:
This link will take you to the official Northshore Learns 2.0 website. [https://www.nsd.org/covid19/northshore-learns] Moving forward, we have 9 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, if they wish. This can also be 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)

**ZOOM SAFETY:**
Your child’s safety is always a priority for us, even in this distance learning environment. You have probably seen news stories about security concerns with Zoom. Our district has been working diligently to protect our students and staff. Here is some additional information:

- Northshore School District is using the "edu" version of Zoom. Compared to the regular version, the "edu" version has more security safeguards and tighter controls around user privacy and how data can be used.
- All NSD staff have been directed to update our Zoom software, which includes new security patches.
- All school Zoom meetings will now use the "waiting room" feature. This gives teachers control of who gets admitted to their Zoom meetings, because they admit students one at a time.
- Teachers have received training on how to configure their settings so that only the teacher can "share their screen," how to remove participants and how to mute their video and/or audio.
- Cottage Lake teachers will be communicating zoom meeting IDs via secure methods (email or Google Classroom)
- Zoom has agreed to the Washington Student Data Privacy Agreement. By signing onto this agreement, they assert that they are following, and will continue to follow, all WA state and Federal student data privacy laws.

**REPEAT...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!

**REPEAT...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.

**PTA NOTES:**
Our PTA is a critical partner to our work to support students and teachers. After our PTA meeting last week, here are some updates for you.

- Recognition awards - PTA has created an online form to gather submissions for our Golden Sailboat (staff award) and Golden Acord (volunteer award) for this spring. [Here is the link for the form.](http://www.nsd.org/enroll) You can vote for a staff member and you can also submit a name for the volunteer award, as well. Submissions are due May 12. Please nominate members who have gone the extra mile this year to support you and our students!

- As we look forward to next year, we still have positions available on next year’s executive board. Positions that are vacant are: Co-President, Secretary, 2 Treasurer positions, and Fundraising. If you are interested in learning more about the positions, please contact Buffy Anson ([buffyanson@yahoo.com](mailto:buffyanson@yahoo.com)).

In partnership,
Jennifer Welch, Principal