

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents,

First, let me tell you how much we miss seeing your students. This social distancing is hard on all of us, but we know it is probably hardest of all for teenagers. We hope you and your children are doing well and staying healthy.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know about the kind of learning work and support your children can expect to receive from this point forward. During the past several weeks, our advisory teachers have reached out to connect with your students, find out how they are doing, provide them with some general learning suggestions (like reading, journaling, and engaging in physical activity), encourage them to set weekly goals, and assess whether they are able to access the internet for future learning.

Beginning no later than Monday, April 13, your students are going to start receiving weekly learning plans from each of their teachers. That means each middle school student will receive six different assignments from six teachers; and each high school student will receive eight different assignments from eight teachers. If your student has access to the internet, those assignments will be delivered via email. If your student does not have access to the internet, we will provide paper copies of the assignments at the three secondary schools on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. (If neither of these options works for you, please call us at (360) 383 9210, and we will work out another method of delivery.)

It has taken all of us a little while to adjust to this new reality, but now it is time to get your students back into a serious daily learning schedule -- especially now that the Governor has declared in-person education will not resume for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. If they haven't done so already, we expect all students to begin working on required lessons on Monday, April 13.

The lessons they will be receiving from their teachers:

- ✓ Will be delivered by email every week on Thursday or Friday.
- ✓ Will generally be designed to last a week (five days), but in some cases may last for two weeks (ten days).
- ✓ Are intended to take approximately 30 minutes per day per subject to complete, which means middle school students will have about three hours of work per day and high school students will have about four hours of work per day.
- ✓ Are aligned to Washington State and Ferndale School District learning standards.
- ✓ Include an online support component, for those who have internet, or printed versions, for those who do not.
- ✓ Contain both learning targets and success criteria, which probably sounds like education speak to you; however, our students are accustomed to using targets and success criteria to guide their work.

As a parent or guardian, if you would like your own copy of the learning plan for any of your student's classes, please contact the individual teacher directly to request one.

Staff will be available throughout the week to respond to questions or concerns from students and parents. Please encourage your students to email their teachers with questions. Our teachers have committed to responding to student and parent emails within 24 hours whenever possible.

In addition to completing the assignments that are sent to them, we expect students to maintain contact with their teachers on a weekly basis. Teachers will be emailing them every week. If they do not hear back from your student after two attempts, they will be calling you on the phone to enlist your support.

We know grading is a question on many people's minds. For third quarter, we intend to issue students a Pass or a No Credit rather than a letter grade. Since third quarter grades are essentially a formal progress report, and they are not posted on students' permanent transcripts, this will not impact GPAs. Students will be awarded a Pass based on (1) the in-school work they completed between February 1 and March 16 (our last day of traditional school), and (2) the contact they have had with staff during the first phase of our continuous learning program (which was delivered to them by their advisory teacher).

We are still working with the state to figure out how grades will be determined for the fourth quarter, but we do know the work your students will begin doing on April 13 will become part of the grading process.

Our goal is to send you regular updates. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns as well.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we have worked to transition to a whole new way of educating students. Thank you in advance for partnering with us to support our students ongoing learning. Together we can help them thrive during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Faye Britt, Horizon Principal
Heather Leighton, Vista Principal
David Rodriguez, Ferndale High School Principal
Jeremy Vincent, Ferndale High School Planning Principal