



Norse Families-

I hope you all are staying well during this unprecedented time. Today's communication is an update on things as they currently stand. As you know, each day brings new information, guidance, and response from Local and State leaders. Below you will find topics that families have sent questions about. Under each topic is a bit of information that may be helpful in understanding the current status in NM and our State.

Learning Expectations: To be clear, this shutdown is very different from our "snow day closures". Students are encouraged to be learning and working each day. Our staff has provided many resources to assist in the learning process. This will look different depending upon the grade level and the access to online resources for each family. While we cannot make work mandatory at this point (many laws apply here including FAPE, IDEA and other equal access guidelines), we do expect students to do their best to continue to make progress and sharpen their current skills.

Communication from Teachers: Communication looks very different depending upon your student's grade level. Our staff will do their best to communicate with you and your child(ren) in an age appropriate way. This could include communication through parents, communication to students and may occur through Google Classroom, Schoology, or email. We will continue to pursue the best options available to us that meet the guidelines set by the Department of Ed and others. You can expect communication from your student's teacher or teachers at least once per week. This communication will contain learning opportunities and resources for students to hone their current skills. Teachers are also prepared to respond to your questions should you need additional guidance to help support your student.

Online Learning and Online Resources - OPPORTUNITIES!: Digital and online resources provide a great opportunity for virtual learning. However, this opportunity is not the same for everyone. Device, wifi availability, and resources are not readily available for all kids and are certainly not available on an equal level. Our current guidance from the Michigan Department of Education is that if we want to move to completely online school then we must ensure that ALL kids have equal access. Ensuring all kids have access is not a possibility, therefore we will continue to offer opportunities and expect that our students and families will do their best to take advantage of these opportunities. We will continue to pursue the expectations around this extremely important topic!

Grades: Grades will not be impacted by the learning opportunities that are shared during the shutdown. We are not allowed to make them mandatory, therefore a student's grade in a class or subject will be the same as the day the shutdown began. We encourage students to take



advantage of the opportunities our teachers are providing and reach out if they need support or guidance.

Spring Break: Our Spring Break dates remain the same, April 6-10. Unless the Governor extends the school shutdown longer our return date remains April 13.

Extending the School Year: It is too early to determine this. We are awaiting guidance and decisions from our State Legislature. This guidance will help inform our planning and ultimately any changes that may occur to the school calendar.

Free Food For ALL Kids: Please refer to my communication piece sent yesterday. Please call with any questions (719-4100).

Questions: We know there are many questions. Some of these we do not have answers to yet, others we do have answers for and want to be sure we are keeping you informed. Please refer to our main page for a Question and Answer forum that will be updated throughout this shutdown.

Please remember that we are all in this together - the NM School Community! We will lean on each other and work together to be our BEST during this challenging time! Thank you for doing your part!