



Dear Parents and Students,

Good afternoon. I have been thinking about you these past three weeks as we prepare to continue the education of our students through e-learning. I know that many of you are facing considerable stress and fear during this time of great uncertainty. We know that having our students learning at home will add to the challenge you all face in balancing all aspects of your lives. We want to avoid having this work be overwhelming for parents, but we want our students to learn as much as possible. I hope your family is well, safe and enjoying the opportunity for quality time together.

As we have informed you over the past couple of weeks, e-learning for our students begins on Monday, April 6. Our teachers and support staff are ready and excited to reconnect with students and to put our e-learning plans into action. I know our principals and teachers have been communicating regularly with you about the details of this venture. If you are searching for information on the e-learning plans, technical support, student supports, language translation and more, it is all available on the District Web site. Principals and teachers will also be available to answer your questions throughout the time of e-learning.

It has been heartening to observe so many of our staff working together to build thoughtful and comprehensive e-learning opportunities for students. I know parents appreciate this outstanding work.

The daily stories of COVID-19 ramping up across the nation and in Minnesota have been unsettling for all of us. It's difficult to hear the daily increases in numbers of Coronavirus cases and the strains on the health care systems. We all worry about our own families, our friends and our neighbors. And, we wonder when our lives may return to normal. It will, however, return to normal, and our students will be back in their schools and participating in the activities that they enjoy. We are eager to have them back in school, but we still do not know how long the Governor will keep schools closed.

You may also have questions about whether school events planned in May and June will go on as scheduled. We need more information before those decisions can be made. Be assured, I will keep you well-informed as they are made. We are working on ways for Seniors, in particular, to have a positive finish to their last year in Minnetonka, and Mr. Erickson will be communicating those plans.

As e-learning begins next Monday, I ask for your patience and understanding. This is new to many of our teachers, and there may well be some bumps along the way. However, I am confident that we will continue to provide exceptional learning experiences for students and that we will come out of this global crisis stronger than ever.

Thank you for your continued support, trust and partnership as we embark on this new step in our journey together.

Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools