

April 1, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

I hope this correspondence finds you healthy and safe.

March 30th through April 3rd was designated as spring break for students. This was to be a respite from school following that long winter period between New Year's and the start of spring. For some, it was to be time spent away from the state to visit friends or family and for others simply enjoying the beautiful area and family time in the Puget Sound region. If we were transported back in time one year and someone from the present was there to describe the setting/situation of our future lives, I believe most of us would be in disbelief. I also think we are running out of adjectives to describe winter/spring 2020!

By now most of you have heard from your classroom teachers and principal. I shared last week that they miss you! They have chosen education as their profession because they love working with students, so this time is unsettling for them as well. I also want to share that whether we come back April 27th or later, student opportunities to learn will evolve. Our 12th grade teachers are ready to get seniors to become June graduates. They have or will be reaching out to you via Zoom, email, phone call, whatever it takes to reassure you that you will have opportunities to complete your senior year requirements. Our students in PK-11th and their families have been or will be contacted by teachers to also provide resources and activities for you to be working on. They too will be available through a variety of modes of communication. This is new territory for all of us, thank you for your patience as we navigate and balance the health of our staff with getting these resources out to you.

Recently, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) provided updated guidance to Washington school districts on what instruction and learning should look like during the extended school closure. Although schools are closed and are not providing traditional in-school instruction, our goal is to continue providing meaningful education opportunities for our students. **What we have done so far:** We have provided learning resources on our district website and teachers are communicating with families and students. This past week, our teachers shared resources and learning opportunities with students that were designed to review, refresh, and reinforce prior learning, while we continued to focus on equitable access for each student. **What we will do next:** We will continue to provide learning resources on our website and teachers will continue to communicate with families and students. We will also begin distribution of paper packets of resources for those families who prefer the information in paper format. Those packets will be distributed on bus routes on Thursdays, beginning April 9, and will also be available for pick-up at the Granite Falls Middle School Multi-Purpose Room on Fridays and Mondays from 7AM to 5PM starting Friday, April 10.

OSPI's most recent update provides an important change to our current approach in the learning opportunities we are providing for students. Soon after spring break, teachers will begin to introduce new learning for students. That new learning will be introduced to students by teachers in a variety of ways. New learning will be assessed, and feedback will be provided to students. We will also be sharing a schedule of learning for elementary and secondary students so families can anticipate what learning their students will be engaging in, and when they can expect that it will happen. We are working at the district and building levels to identify ways to implement this instruction and support for all students. More information will be shared after spring break. Thank you for your patience as we adjust and

readjust to shifting circumstances and direction. If you have questions, please address them to Karin Manns, Assistant Superintendent, at kmanns@gfalls.wednet.edu.

In the meantime, students, pick up a book (or device) and read, then share your thoughts with family members. Parents, there are plenty of virtual museums sites that are open, even the Seattle Aquarium has resources online along with an "otter cam" for visitors to see how the animals are doing. Parents, this is a great time to include your children in learning about cooking with side lessons on measurement and nutrition. Whatever you're doing at home, try to create a learning moment and ultimately, a favorable memory amidst a difficult set of circumstances. As you receive other school resources from your teachers, take your time as you review and refresh your materials.

Be well and let's stay in touch,

Dr. Josh Middleton, Superintendent

Mrs. Karin Manns, Assistant Superintendent