

April 17, 2020

Greetings Maple View Families:

We are finishing our first week of online learning today with Health/Fitness and electives posting lessons this morning for students. This week we also had science and language arts teaching lessons. Next week math and social studies will post lessons with Health/Fitness and electives posting again next Friday. As I shared with you in the beginning, we very intentionally started slowly in order to ensure that the system could sustain online learning and to make sure all of our families could participate. I know, for some families, the work was completed quickly and it seemed as if there should have been more. Other families however, have members who are sick or parents and students all working from home and having to share internet and devices in order to connect with school. Still others do not have reliable internet and cannot connect. We are trying our best to take into considerations all the different situations that families find themselves in during this crisis and to balance the correct amount of school into that complex equation. We will be looking for ways to extend some assignments for students who are ready for work that is more rigorous over the next couple of weeks. This coming week will look the same as far as number of classes. At the end of the week, all of our classes will have met twice. We are currently planning to increase the number of classes per day beginning Monday, April 27th. I will have the details of this new schedule in my next newsletter.

The other thing I talked about last week was the grading policy for Tahoma during this online learning phase between now and June 19th. The district newsletter that came out last night showed families a glimpse of our thinking so far. I am not sending the policy out with this newsletter as we are supposed to get some more guidance from the state today. I am guessing we will have this finalized and ready to come to you next week. As soon as I get a final draft, I will send it out to Maple View families.

I have received some other questions this week that I would like to address. The first was asking how students could pick up personal belongings that were left at school. We have talked about this issue but as yet do not have a plan. I can promise you that everyone will have a chance to pick up personal belongings. How and when will be determined by the state with guidance on how we will be able to meet in the coming weeks. More to come on this subject, as we understand what is allowable for people to meet.

Another question is: will there still be academic awards that the end of the school year? We do intend to have academic awards, which is always a highlight of our year. We will be thinking with our staff as to what this will look like in our virtual world but I would hate to not recognize the hard work of our students this year.

And finally, the district has decided that for those 6th grade students who are in the quarterly rotation classes, they will continue through the rest of the school year with their 3rd quarter (T3) elective. You will notice that the change has been updated in Skyward.

The good news is that most teachers have been reporting participation rates in online learning and assignments being turned in to be 85% or higher. Considering the district has had to pivot from normal business and create a system that had not even been thought of before a few weeks ago is very encouraging.

Counselor connection update—Our district counseling team has made it easier to connect to counselors face to face! We are now using a confidential version of Zoom as our platform. If you would like to schedule a face to face or phone meeting with your child's counselor, you may contact her directly by email. If your child's last name starts with A-K, email Betty Bernstein: bbernste@tahomasd.us. For L-Z, email Liz Thibert: lthibert@tahomasd.us.

Please check out our counseling website for information and great resources. Just click on this link: <https://sites.google.com/tahomasd.us/tsdcounseling/home>.

We are here to help – just reach out!

We also wanted to let you know we are sending this survey to all MV students to their Go Tahoma email to see who might like to be part of a counseling check-in group. We will conduct these through a confidential version of Zoom and ask your permission by email. Thank you for helping us support your student.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOuWrVAqqEJNkTIVrqxWe6kQUyUjzpzjzylk81G67y5w3yrA/viewform>

I hope that you are finding some time to enjoy family while our movement has been restricted. The McGrath's, me, my wife and two adult children are all working from our home which has its challenges but we are all healthy and have found time to take a family walk at the end of each day with appropriate social distancing from others who have the same idea. I miss our students and our Maple View family so much. Please know I am thinking about you all the time and trying to brainstorm ideas to make this experience the best it can be.

In closing, here is a video of our new “normal” work day:

[9 to 5 at the VIEW](#)

Have a great weekend. Go Bears!

Andy

Kenneth A. McGrath

Principal

Maple View Middle School

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