

20 March 2020

To: Glen Lake Parents
All Staff
Board of Education

Fr: J. Hoover, Superintendent

Re: Coronavirus Response Update #5

Dear Laker Family:

We miss your children! These past five days for me have felt like five weeks. I know I speak for my entire staff when I tell you we can't wait for the closure to be lifted, the health concerns mitigated and we can have our students back!

Below are items that I trust will be of interest and help to you:

- **When will school begin again?** A question that, unfortunately, we do not have an answer for as of today. We are praying we get our students back on April 6th. We will plan for that to occur until the Governor tells us differently. Please know we are doing our best to “look around corners” to what other possibilities might be out there for us. We are working on plans that would put us in a position to be ready for our students in mid to late April, a potential date in May or even beyond that.
- **Food preparation and deliveries.** We are delivering food on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to allow food preparation by our food service staff to occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When food is delivered, it is for a two-day period, except for Friday's delivery which covers Friday and the entirety of the weekend. When we visit homes we also check on other needs families may have. Those needs are then recorded and responded to. John Fields, Food Service Director, and his staff—Rebecca Chavalia, Lisa Logan, Heidi Lindeman and Angie Widrig, have put in long hours and have developed a fine tuned process that is allowing us to put out hundreds and hundreds of meals. They are my heroes, as are our bus drivers who navigated very slippery roads today. (*Please note that other Food Service staff members have been excused from helping at this time so they can focus on their own health.)
- **Instructional opportunities.** Teachers continue to prepare and share instructional materials online. You can access the materials your children can benefit from at our website, www.glenlakeschools.org. You will see on our banner at the top of the website, a “**COVID-19 Student Learning Opportunities**” link in orange that will direct you to instructional links in various categories. You can also go to the Academics & Arts link at the very top of the homepage and select Elementary or Secondary and go to the very bottom of the drop down menu and select either “Elementary Online” or “Secondary Online” and a teacher menu will be waiting for you. Find your child's teacher and learning opportunities will be listed for your child.

- We are working with our teachers and Instructional Technology department in putting Google Meet in place across the board for teachers and students to be able to see each other and discuss lessons virtually. A number of our teachers have been using this to see how it works and we are getting great feedback. You will receive (or have already received) more information from your child's teacher and/or principal.
- We have had some questions about using Zoom as a meeting platform. Kurt Swartzmiller and Grant Wright, our new Technology Director, have shared with us that, at this point, they cannot guarantee that using Zoom will be protected from outside contacts that could target our students. Using Google Meet keeps the meeting platform within our Google school domain where we can insure protection from any outside contact source.
- Teachers are communicating with each other, the administration and the IT Department to find best answers for getting instructional materials to the students and putting our teachers in front of their students online.
- **Mental/Health and Wellness.** This has been and is increasing as an area of greater concern for families in this time of crisis. We have had on our website a link that will provide families with some wonderful resources to access for help. Beyond the resource links provided for you, we have provided you with the names and contact information for each of our four counselors. They are waiting to hear from you so they can be of help. Take them up on their offer and availability! Simply click on the **“COVID-19 Student Learning Opportunities”** in orange on our homepage banner and it will take you to a box with 15 different categories you can visit. Right in the middle, you will see **“Mental/Health/Wellness”** that you can click on for help.
- **Volunteer opportunities.** We are getting calls from folks in the district asking if they can volunteer to help, if needed. As a reminder, we do have on the homepage of our school website, located on our moving banner, an invitation to sign up as a volunteer.

I will be in my office next week. Please know if there is anything I can do for you or your families during this pre-spring break school closure, I hope you will call me or email me.