

DATE: March 15, 2020

FROM: Jeff Decker

RE: COVID-19 and On-Line Classes

Dear Parents,

Only a week ago, closing school was, in my mind, out of the question. However, on Wednesday, President Trump shut down travel from Europe, the NBA and NHL cancelled their seasons, the nightmare of what is taking place in Italy unfolded, and the number of institutions cancelling grew exponentially. Since then, I have tried to learn as much as I can about the truth and reality of this virus and have come to the conclusion that the threat is undeniable and breadth of the virus and its impact is probable.

The decision to close or not close becomes a "catch 22" as continuing with classes poses an unacceptable health risk to children and employees while closing school creates a scheduling burden for working parents. Nonetheless, the health and well-being of our entire school community has to come first regardless of any and all inconveniences. I'm sure you would all agree.

Tomorrow, all faculty and staff will report at 8:00 AM to assist students with gathering textbooks, packets, and other materials needed to proceed with on-line classes. The remainder of the day will be spent working with LMS, a part of Renweb, and we will discuss how on-line classes will be structured for as long as we are closed. While the regular school day is obviously preferable, this alternative will allow for student learning and progress to go uninterrupted. But, for this to be successful, it will require teachers, students, and parents working together. Teachers will continue to assign work, answer questions, provide instruction, assign graded work (including quizzes and tests), and designate deadlines. ***It will be imperative that students understand their responsibility and accountability by spending adequate time during school hours getting their work done and meeting deadlines. The next two weeks are NOT spring break!***

All teachers will be required to communicate and interact with all classes every day (Monday through Friday). Email will remain a means communication for teachers and students; email should be checked regularly. Some teachers are planning to video instruction from their classrooms and those will be sent to students as well. **Please be sure that Lisa Milo has your child's current email address on record; otherwise, kids won't be able to access LMS/Renweb.**

We will continue to communicate as needed. Please remain positive and patient as we are all starting something new together.

Thank you!

