

## **Auto-call to families 3-19-20**

Good afternoon, Washburn families. This is Emily Palmer, your principal. I'm calling today to check in with our community and share some updates. This will be a long voicemail so thank you in advance for your time & patience.

First, please remember that all Washburn staff are currently working & here for you. You are welcome to reach out to us by email or through the parent portal. The staff directory is on our website.

About schoolwork right now - I want to say clearly that how much school work your student does in this next week before spring break should be determined by your family. If students have the time, there is plenty to do, both to catch up, and to extend learning within quarter 3.

If you are looking for options beyond what is provided by teachers, there are links on the MPS website for every grade & subject. But if your student is busy with family, it's ok to wait on school work. Either way is ok. Family comes first.

Whether we are back in school by April 6th or still at home, regular school work will begin again on April 6th.

I encourage families to spend time talking with your kids about this crisis and how we are responding as a community. We can be both realistic and hopeful. For example, according to the MN Dept of Health, as of today, there are still zero confirmed COVID19 cases in Minneapolis Schools students & staff. We continue to follow safety protocols carefully.

As we think about the possibility of distance learning this spring, there is a survey coming out this week from the district about family technology access. Please be sure to respond so that the district can plan appropriately for the long term.

I am happy to share that there is free wifi in Minneapolis now. Both USI Wireless, which runs the City of Minneapolis wifi, and comcast xfinity, have both opened their wifi service to be free throughout Minneapolis to support our students & families as we practice social distancing.

For families who still have difficulty with internet, there are paper work-packets available at the food distribution sites, so students can get school work in addition to food. Remember that all children who live in the city of Minneapolis are eligible to receive lunch & a snack, but they must be present to receive food each day.

Childcare sites are available now for emergency & critical personnel - you can check out the MPS website for information about where the sites are and how to register.

That was a lot of information, and there will be much more to come.

We are in a mode of flexibility right now that might be more flexible than any of us have ever experienced. I know that sometimes it feels like we're walking in quicksand. I know it's hard. We are all experiencing the fears & uncertainty together.

What I can say at this time, Millers, is that school will keep going, in some form or another. We are blessed to have options, so that learning can continue, and kids can get their credits, and seniors can get their diplomas. We are still figuring out the details, but Washburn is committed, as always, to our students' success.

I will share more information as it comes. For now, thank you for listening, and stay safe, Millers!