



April 6, 2020

Dear Timberlane school community,

As we enter the fourth week of remote instruction, my hope is both Timberlane families and staff members are adjusting to a new “normal” as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. I trust that many of you are settling into new routines that work best for your families and households.

The Center for Disease Control offers some great advice about dealing with some of the stresses associated with the coronavirus and I’d like to share a few of those tips:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media as hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body by eating healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep.

Children and teens react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children.¹

Another great resource for positive parenting through COVID-19 can be found at:
https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/family-dynamics/communication-discipline/Pages/Positive-Parenting-and-COVID-19_10-Tips.aspx

There are two items I’d like to address with respect to the district’s initiatives during this remote learning period. The first is to clarify the district’s pause in moving toward utilizing videoconferencing as an instructional tool. Unlike other school districts who jumped right into using these platforms, we, the Timberlane Teachers Association (TTA) and Superintendent’s Leadership Team (SLT), wanted to be sure we could implement these tools while protecting the privacy of students and staff members in their home settings. We also wanted to ensure the platforms we use are secure. Additionally, we had concerns about technology limitations for some district families. With the full support of the school board, we are pleased to announce we have a memorandum of understanding in place with the TTA that provides teachers the option to employ videoconferencing platforms to supplement remote instruction. We also have a plan in place to ensure students in grades K-12 have an appropriate electronic device at home for use during this time. Parents with concern about their child’s access to an electronic device at home should reach out to their building principal.

The second item is about providing a food service option for any of our students in need during this period of Remote Learning. Beginning on Thursday, April 9, 2020, Timberlane Regional School District will begin offering its students in need bagged meals at one location in each town in the District. The program will run from 11:15 to noon each Monday and Thursday during Remote Learning at designated locations. A press release with more details will follow this communication.

Again, I wish to commend our staff for their ability, talent and resolve to meet the challenges set before them during this pandemic. In very short time, and with little warning, our schools have undertaken the charge to reconfigure entirely the delivery of instruction from the classroom to online and remote learning. A task this size requires the

¹ www.cdc.gov

commitment and talents of many people – our educators, administrators, technology specialists, support staff and others. These people are truly dedicated to the mission of providing meaningful learning opportunities for all students and as time goes on, those opportunities will only improve.

In closing I'd like to remind staff members and parents who need assistance in the delivery or receipt of instructional and educational services, with school meals, or anything else, to reach out to their building principal. They are prepared to respond and address your needs.

Thank you all again for your ongoing support. Stay home and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Earl Metzler,
Superintendent of Schools