

FALL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit 60

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Five Towns, One Vision.

To: Fall Mountain Families and Staff
From: Lori Landry, Superintendent
Date: April 1, 2020
RE: FMRSD Updates

This past Monday began our third week of remote learning. When we first began it seemed like an impossible situation but our teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, bus drivers, food service workers, secretaries, custodians and other support staff have made the transition as smooth as we could have hoped. This shift would also not have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of our families and students.

Last week Governor Sununu made the announcement that all remote learning has been extended to May 4, 2020. Our administrative team has been meeting to discuss the implications of this announcement and what teaching and learning will look like for the next several weeks. We recognize that replicating the normal school day, regular instruction and assessment is not possible or appropriate at this time. While we cannot replace our personal interaction with our students, our staff has worked tirelessly to create an online environment that supports students and families. We are committed to ensuring, to the best of our ability, students and families have access to teaching and learning supports and materials.

As we move forward, we will continue to keep you informed with updates and work with you to maintain the best learning environment we can. Please review the updates below and reach out to your building administrators with any questions.

CONTINUED LEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY

Our first three weeks of remote learning were based primarily on the maintenance of already learned concepts and skills. As we transition to this next phase, our teachers will be introducing new content focusing on the most critical concepts and skills necessary for students.

We will continue to provide regular and direct instruction on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** through GoogleClassroom, GoogleMeet or other online platforms. Extended guidance is expected from the NH Department of Education in the next few days and we will update you with any changes as soon as possible.

Specialized instruction will be provided when a student requires additional supports or services. Collaboration and communication between teachers, special educators and parents will continue.

Teachers will continue to engage with students on **Wednesdays** and will be used for independent work time for students, providing small group instruction, individual student assistance and check-ins, remedial instruction, conferencing with students and/or parents, communicating with colleagues, advising students, 504/IEP planning and collaboration, grading, and/or planning for remote learning and instruction.

Instructional Expectations

- Emphasize relationships in this new learning environment! Flexibility, creativity, trust, understanding, and relationships ahead of rigor and rigidity and maintaining strict standards. Fairness means students get what they need and this may not always feel equal.
- Focus on essential skills and concepts based upon the standards and competencies. Remember, “Less is More” in this environment.
- Weekly assignments, projects, video check-ins, and projects are all ways to assess learning. Once again, focus is on the critical concepts and skills needed for your content area. Keep in mind that many families have limited data internet and one device which may need to be shared between multiple people.
- Understand that you may find that you have to scale back and adjust after your first week of new instruction. Give yourself and students plenty of grace during this time. Everyone is adjusting and many have multiple roles at home.
- Consider having designated “office hours” to be accessible online to students and families. Please be aware that some households will be sharing a device, so it is important that teacher availability is spaced out over the day so all students can have an opportunity to contact their teacher.
- Be flexible and ready to adapt when needs arise.

Grading Expectations

We recognize that many families are working and need to balance work with family time as well as their student’s education. With that in mind, over the coming weeks our expectation is that all students participate in the teaching and learning opportunities provided daily in a meaningful way. Our priority at this time is to provide access knowing full well that student participation will vary. As a result please see the grading expectations below.

Grades PreK-4: No formal grades. Student attendance and meaningful participation will be monitored daily by teachers.

Grades 5-8: Pass/Fail. Each teacher or grade level team will establish clear guidelines/criteria of what constitutes passing.

Minimum engagement expectations to pass should include:

- ❖ attendance expectations
- ❖ some demonstration of participation that has flexible due dates
- ❖ teachers have the flexibility to add content specific expectations focusing on the key concepts and skills necessary for students to learn.

Grades 9-12: The standard process as outlined in the FMRHS Student Handbook will be followed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A 1-1 LAPTOP FOR GRADES 3 AND 4

Students in grades 3 and 4 who need a Chromebook will be permitted to take their individually assigned Chromebook home during the school closure. A Chromebook Opt-In Acceptable Use Guideline and QR login codes will be inserted in each device. By accepting the Chromebook you are agreeing to the Acceptable Use Policies. Instructions about using QR codes will be emailed to you. [Attached](#) is a document entitled Chromebook 1-1 Guidelines. It outlines the expectations and provides general information for families.

DISSEMINATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS & CHROMEBOOKS

Teacher generated instructional materials and Chromebooks will be available to be picked up beginning Monday, April 6. Please see the distribution schedule below.

Monday, April 6th from 8-1

Walpole Primary School (by community room)
North Walpole School (by gymnasium)
Charlestown Primary School (front door)
North Charlestown Community School grades 1-4 (front entrance area)

Tuesday, April 7th from 8-1

Alstead Primary School (front door)
Acworth Center School (front door)
Sarah Porter School (front door)
Vilas Middle School (in front of gymnasium)

Tuesday, April 7th and Wednesday, April 8th from 8-1

Fall Mountain Regional High School (library)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Our Information Technology staff (ITS) is available to support students, staff and families with questions and technology assistance while schools are closed. ITS is offering daily remote workshops which include Google Classroom, Google Meet, and other remote learning topics for staff.

Families, students and staff with a remote technology issue or that need remote technology assistance and support should submit a request through the Technology Remote Assistance Form located on the district website's homepage at sau60.org. An ITS person will call you and remotely assist as needed. Resources and help documents are also available on the district homepage under Remote Learning Resources.

DISTRICT BUILDINGS, FIELDS AND PLAYGROUNDS

All school buildings, fields and playgrounds are closed. There will be no access to our district buildings at this time unless otherwise authorized by the building administrator.

NH STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT

Today, Governor Chris Sununu announced that he is suspending New Hampshire's standardized testing requirements as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"I have informed the Federal Department of Education that standardized tests will not take place in New Hampshire this semester," said Governor Chris Sununu. "While remote learning has gotten off to an incredible start, we must continue to have flexibility in our approach to education, and onerous standardized tests from Washington send the wrong message to New Hampshire families who are already working hard to adapt to this new, challenging environment."

APRIL VACATION WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED

We recognize the sudden and now prolonged shift to remote learning has changed the dynamics of what school looks like. We also know that this has been difficult for staff and families and we are grateful for the trust you have placed in us to make decisions that are in the best interest of our entire Fall Mountain community. We believe that everyone will be ready for a break and have decided to continue with the April school vacation week (April 20-24) as planned.

Spring and end-of-the-year activities are being discussed and we will provide information as these decisions are made.

On behalf of the school board, administrative team, and the Fall Mountain community, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible work our staff is doing to make this transition as smooth as possible. I also want to express my gratitude to our families for their continued support as we navigate this new world of education.