

Dear Parent,

As I write this letter we are starting our 2<sup>nd</sup> day of *Distance Learning*. Based on what I have heard; things are going OK. Certainly there are glitches, but overall things went as well as we expected. Hopefully you feel the same about the first couple of days. But if not, please contact the teachers right away and let them know what is not working. An even better idea would be to contact the teachers letting them know what is going well. One of the things that we have very little control over is technology. It can be wonderful and helpful when it is working but it can be a curse if things are going bad. If you are running into challenges with technology, once again, contact the school quickly so we can figure out a solution.

The other item that I want to touch base with everyone about is our food service and meal preparation. On a positive note, our waiver was approved allowing us to provide meals to **ALL** students in grades K-12 at **NO COST** to anyone. It does not matter if you were receiving Free & Reduced meals or if you paid full price for the meals your children ate. This waiver gives us the green light to provide every student going to school at Glenville-Emmons Public School a free breakfast and lunch every day. This leads me to the next item: Our Food Service Survey. If you would like your child(ren) to receive meals, you **MUST** respond to the survey every week. Our food service workers made a great assumption this week that some families needed meals even though they did not respond to the survey. Even though meals are now free, we need to have an accurate count each and every week. Starting next week, if you do not respond to the food service survey, meals will not be prepared for your family.

Another thing regarding food delivery I need to mention is in regards to our upcoming Easter Break. For the duration of this closure, we will continue to follow the district calendar. On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> school was scheduled to be closed. Therefore, on those 2 days, there will be no meals provided. Next week (April 6 – April 10) you will receive meals for Monday through Thursday and the delivery days will not change. The following week (April 13 – April 17) you will receive meals for Tuesday through Friday. With Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> being a delivery day, we will have to change one or both of our delivery days for that week. As soon as we have determined those dates, we will notify everyone.

Governor Tim Walz recently set two different timelines. The first focuses on the “Stay at Home” executive order given to all Minnesotans. As a result of this order I made the decision to close both school buildings to all staff for the next 2 weeks with very few exceptions. This executive order is set to expire at 5:00 pm on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. If this order is allowed to expire, teachers and staff will be allowed to come back into the building with the continued requirement of practicing social distancing. The other executive order focuses on *Distance Learning*. Our *Distance Learning* plan can be found on the school website. If you have not done so, please read through and familiarize yourself with this plan. The dates for *Distance Learning* go through April 30<sup>th</sup> with students (possibly) returning to school on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. I have my beliefs about this timeline and hope that everybody in the State of Minnesota does their part so all students can return to their schools for a few weeks before summer is upon us. If the students return on May 5<sup>th</sup> we will make plans to have a commencement ceremony for our graduating seniors. If we are not allowed to return, it is still our goal to provide some kind of a ceremony for our seniors so they can have an ending celebration to wrap up their final year in high school.

Whatever happens and however this school year ends remember you are not expected to figure this out on your own. Every staff member feels the same anxiety and fear about our unknown future. But to hold it in and not reach out for help **IS NOT** the thing to do. As the *Distance Learning* days continue the challenges will also continue. Reach out to us and ask for help. We may not have an immediate answer but sometimes it helps to just talk to someone.

Stay safe! Stay healthy! Stay home! Stay positive!

*Superintendent Brian Shanks*