



LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary:

The elementary schools are now in the routine of Distance Learning. We have spent the past couple of weeks reaching out to families to give support as needed. Our Monday “WILDCATS Connects” is a big hit with the students. This is where our specialist and counselors are sharing weekly assignments and activities with their students. We continue to encourage families to get their bodies moving, be creative, and stay connected in a variety of ways. Many of these activities can be done with the entire family.

The students are feeling a little more connected as teachers are meeting live with their class, small groups and individuals throughout the week. This weekly connection is so important to the well-being of everyone, teachers and students look forward to it each day. We are finding, just like while in school, that students spend different amounts of time on their daily assignments. Staff is connecting with families daily to give guidance and advice on how to find the right balance for their child and household.

We are really missing our students and look forward to the day we can return to Bayview, Laketown and Southview. We continue to be flexible and adjust as our return date continues to be unclear. We are really enjoying the district wide “Stay Positive” and connected initiatives. We feel extremely grateful to be a part of the Waconia 110 District!

Middle School:

The bottom line is we all miss seeing and interacting with each other in-person, although teachers have commented on the enjoyment of meeting a lot of the students' pets! Distance learning has entered its second week at WMS and it is truly amazing what students and staff can accomplish in this distance model. Thanks to the advances of technology we can continue to provide learning activities that may have been non-existent in previous decades. A challenging realization for staff is that daily instructional time per class period has been reduced by almost 70%! WMS Staff and teachers across the nation are experiencing the challenges of reviewing what was intended to be covered during this time and determining what 30% is the most vital learning for students to complete.

Across Minnesota, students also lost ten full days of instruction during the two weeks off the Governor's directive of no new assignments. The culmination of the missed learning across the state and throughout the world will require leaders to adapt instruction when we do return to full capacity. It is sounding more and more of a reality that we will not be returning to school buildings this year although that has not been made official. A few of the current challenges to overcome with the distance learning model continue to be educational technology reliability (Internet speed, Schoology, etc.), how to assess and communicate progress or lack thereof, and how to engage and support learners that are struggling for a wide variety of reasons.

Distance learning is new to most of us and the hard work, patience, and optimism that is happening in ISD 110 is fantastic. Over the past two weeks, I imagine many parents and guardians have gained a greater understanding and respect for teachers and what they are able to do when it comes to teaching your children. Thank you to all of the parents that have passed along messages and cards of gratitude to our amazing staff. They are true day brighteners!

A couple of distance learning reminders shared with parent/guardians:

- Reading practice is vital for all middle school students. Continue to engage in daily independent reading. Re-read titles, engage in family and sibling read-alouds, and discover a way to acquire and share new books with family, friends, neighbors, etc. (Sanitize hands and books during transfer).
- Monitor screen time and attempt to eliminate as much screen time as possible. Encourage board/card games, crafts, art projects, physical activities, face to face conversations, home cleaning/maintenance projects, cooking, dancing, and anything that does not involve viewing a screen.
- Continue to monitor student social media usage to prevent poor choices and keep our children mentally healthy and safe. With the absence of "no phones during school hours", student access to their phones and social media has increased by almost 25% each week.
- Continue to monitor academic progress with frequency and encourage students to connect with their teachers frequently. The number one expectation is for students to always give their best efforts-- this involves having the personal grit to learn when it's hard or has additional barriers.
- Enjoy the benefits of the additional time with family! This is an amazing opportunity to spend a lot of quality time together and create positive memories during a difficult and scary time. Conversations and positive social interactions can greatly benefit the mental health of all of us.

By 3:30 PM on Friday, April 10th, 3rd quarter-final academic grades will be available for students and families to review using the Infinite Campus Portal. Due to having a shorter grading period, process grades will not receive a final evaluation rating. The third quarter grading period was cut two weeks short and teachers took into consideration the inability for students to complete additional learning and missed opportunities for assessment corrections and retakes.

High School:

It's been a busy week as teachers and students move into week two of our distance learning plan. The second week has been smoother with fewer technology glitches and a growing comfort level for both teachers and students.

We received great news this week for the 100+ students who were enrolled in our Safety/Drivers Education course. State statute prohibited schools from delivering the coursework through distance learning, but a variance was provided that will allow us to restart these classes next week. The variance will mean that our students will earn credit for the class and complete the hours needed to take the driving permit at the end of the school year.

In more great news, we received final confirmation that WHS will have four National Merit Scholars in the Class of 2020. Joshua Hebeisen, Natalie Meath, Jack Van Nurden, and Gabriel Willis will be recognized this spring at commencement and, hopefully, at a School Board meeting. This is the first time in school history that we've had four National Merit Scholars in one graduating class. Congratulations to our winners and their parents!

We are continuing to make plans for our normal year-end activities that involve our seniors, including Senior Awards Night, our Senior Walk through the elementary schools, Senior picnic, and Commencement. Depending on our return date, we are also in the beginning stages of building contingency plans. While we remain hopeful that we'll be back in school, we remain committed to working with students and parents to find ways to recognize and celebrate this incredible group of young women and men, whether we return to school or not.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Although spring practices and games are on hold, our Wildcat activities coaches, directors and staff continue to make the essential connections with our student participants via schoology, google hangout, etc. Distant coaching plans allow our staff to not only provide sport specific individual skill development information, but most importantly focus on our purpose of education based activities, the social, emotional and character development of the student participants.

Community Ed:

Community Education is still providing daycare for the essential workers. We are averaging about 30 kids per day. We are offering Distance Learning for our Preschool and ECFE families. Overall, Distance Learning is going very well. The kids are very excited to be able to see their teachers and still be able to do circle times and have a book read to them. For the rest of our activities. We are still in a holding pattern. Waiting to see when we can start offering programs again. Hopefully soon!

Human Resources:

Our annual employee benefits open enrollment period will begin on April 16 and extend through May 4, 2020. Employees will receive an email from PlanSource that will allow them to access the online enrollment system to make any desired benefit elections or modifications. Eligible employees will have the option to select from up to three different medical plans as well as

dental and vision insurance plans. Our school district also offers two different flexible spending accounts with one designated for unreimbursed medical expenses and the other for dependent care. Voluntary supplemental life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance are also available. The school district's new plan year for insurance benefits will begin on July 1, 2020.

Student Services:

School Board Report: 4.16.20

Special Education staff are doing a great job implementing distance learning and supporting the families of their students through this change. Staff are delivering services such as reading, math, speech, OT, etc. Staff are creating Individual Distance Learning Plans (IDLPs) for students on their caseloads. The IDLPs are created in collaboration with families and other team members. IDLPs will temporarily replace IEPs. This is a significant undertaking for staff with over 700+ IEPs to convert to IDLPs. In addition we will continue to meet all the due process requirements possible in this format. Our assessment teams will continue to complete evaluations.

The ESPs have jumped into distance learning as well. They check in with their supervisor daily and check out at the end of the day with a survey of the activities they completed during that day. The majority of their assignments so far are: checking in with students, material preparation, completing professional development in Schoology and Safe Schools, utilizing Seesaw or Schoology to help students, and assisting in Kids Co, childcare. Their roles will continue to evolve as we learn more about teaching and supporting students in distance learning.

Superintendent:

Our new normal of school and society continues to provide challenges and opportunities. We are so proud of how all at ONE10 have worked together to keep each other safe and continue delivering a quality education. We want to thank our students, parents and staff members for all they are doing to make the best out of our ONE10 distance learning program. We know this takes a lot of individual commitment and discipline from all to make a distance learning program successful and we appreciate what all are doing to make this happen.

The ONE10 administrative team and I continue to stay in contact with the local, regional and state agencies to make sure we are up-to-date on the latest recommendation. We will continue to post the most relevant and essential information on our website. The most recent Governor's Executive Order extended the stay at home order until May 4th. If there is no change to the Governor's Executive Orders, we will be back in school on May 5th. We are getting hints from the Governor that he is looking at extending distance learning through the end of the school year. If that happens, we know that will change a lot of spring events and activities. We will let you know as soon as we know if that happens. We are currently working on backup plans for our spring events in case this occurs. We are looking at ways to celebrate our end of school experiences for all students and especially our seniors, which includes graduation. It is our goal to continue our great traditions in some fashion.

We are so thankful for our exceptional employees at ONE10 who were called to the frontline by the governor in his executive order. The childcare providers, cooks and custodians have continued to do amazing work during this shutdown and we cannot thank them enough. If you get a chance, reach out and do something special for our frontline workers. Let's make sure we remember all those at ONE10 who are providing a great service to our students, families and our community!!

The governor has made a ruling that the state does not plan to provide funding for our fee based programs. So, at this time, we are looking at the financial impact that will result from this with our Fund 2 and Fund 4 programs and our spring activities. The food nutrition and community education programs are affected by this ruling and we are developing plans to help these programs stay whole. We are also looking into strategies of a best plan for spring activity employees moving forward. A big factor with these plans is if we return to school and activities on May 5th. I will keep all informed when we know our exact plans.

As we navigate through this new normal, we will continue to adjust and review all our programs and academic offerings to deliver the best we can in this environment. We will always keep an eye on the financial ramifications due to this new normal. We will continue to keep ONE10 the impressive school district we have become.

WE Are ONE10!!