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MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

April 3, 2020

Parents and Families:

With the extension of the school closure in Wyoming through April 17, 2020, **we will continue the process of teaching your high school student via distance learning for high school credit on the morning of Monday, April 6, 2020.** This distance learning will continue for all high school students until the school closure is lifted. While we are optimistic that will happen before the end of the regular school year, we are also prepared to finish the school year via distance learning. I would like to thank the teachers for their hard work and concern as we enter this process. We are blessed to have such a great group of professionals as we begin this distance learning.

Our priority as a staff is to provide the absolute best education that we can for all of our students via this distance learning environment. **The critical piece to that education is your child's involvement.** Over the past two weeks we have been fine tuning the distance learning environment by providing make up work and enrichment opportunities to students, as well as checking out computers to students who need a reliable device. **(Do you know a high school student who needs a device? Email me at carrb@uinta4.com.)**

At the high school we will maintain the Purple and White schedule with Monday, April 6 being a Purple day. **Your child's teachers will have assignments posted via Google Classroom for that day's classes at 8:00 am each morning.** Additional assignments will not be posted for that day after 8:00. This allows your child to see what work is expected each day and plan their day appropriately to complete the required work.

It is absolutely necessary that your student engage and communicate with their teachers and complete and submit work to their teachers so they can earn high school credit and stay on track for graduation and be counted as present and attending school. Students who do not engage in the online learning process may be withdrawn from school, lose credit, or be considered a dropout. In every regard **the expectations on us for a school when it comes to school and student accountability are the exact same as when students are coming into the building every day.**

In order to honor the work your students are putting in during this distance education portion of instruction, we have had a conversation as a staff at weighting these online weeks of school in such a way that even if a student was failing a class before spring break, they would be able to complete the work, pass the class, and receive credit. **It is important that you and your child understand this opportunity to truly receive credit, so he or she engages and communicates with his or her teachers online.**

Review the next pages that offer specifics related to the this upcoming distance education program.

STUDENT WORKLOAD

At the high school we will maintain the Purple / White Schedule. On a Purple day, students will receive assignments via Google Classroom for that day's work. On the White day, students will receive assignments electronically for that day's work. **Students can anticipate approximately 45 minutes of work for each class beginning with this distance learning process, with that expectation increasing as students and staff become more proficient at navigating the online learning.**

GRADING

Teachers will continue to enter grades in their gradebooks as appropriate for each class and each student. Since this is such a unique situation, at the end of the semester we will give students and parents an opportunity to "sign off" on the grades the student is going to receive. At that point, before grades are put on any official transcript, **students and parents will have a chance to choose if the student will keep the earned letter grade in each class, OR they will be able to choose a Pass / Fail option for each class.** This will be an option per class. For example: if a student receives an A in English at the end of the semester, they would probably keep that grade, but if they earn a C+ in science, they may choose instead to take a Pass grade for that science class. That Pass grade will not help or hurt their current semester or overall GPA. We feel this approach invites students to be active in the distance education environment, provides a bit of a carrot for students who may have had a low grade in a third quarter class, encourages students to do their best work, and also allows them to maintain their GPA for Hathaway purposes if they do not respond well to the distance learning environment.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Instruction will be new learning that is directly related to the content area essential standards. Teachers will identify learning targets as they provide for this virtual student learning, provide regular assessment and feedback, and track attendance and participation as described below. While this virtual environment is obviously different from the educational program most of our students are used to, our teachers are also prioritizing their instruction to help students gain the most from this online environment.

ATTENDANCE

While we all have to be flexible in our expectations of this remote learning process, **one piece that we have to account for each day is your child's participation and engagement.** There are several ways that we can count your child as "present" via this distance learning environment.

- **Coursework submissions by a student** in a course that is logged and recorded by a learning management or comparable system
- **Academic-based communication** between a student and the course teacher or the teacher and parent/guardian logged by the teacher
- **Student participation activities** that are logged and recorded by the course teacher
- Submission of hard copy coursework through postal mail or in person.

Teachers will be tracking each student in their classes according to this level of participation. Students who do not participate may be removed from the teacher rolls.

MAKE UP DAYS

If we have strong student participation and completion of work, we do NOT feel that we will need to make up days going into June. You can expect us to be communicating with students (and parents) frequently if we see signs that your child not meeting the attendance requirements outlined above. **We are asking some of our building-level para-professionals to communicate with students and parents to be sure they are able to access the online curriculum and understand teacher expectations.** We hope that families respond to this intervention in a positive way and know it is intended to help students finish the year strong and earn credit for their classes.

SPECIAL SERVICES

If you have a child receiving special services, those special education teachers and related service providers will be reaching out to you to communicate your students' online learning plan. The number of contacts you receive

may feel overwhelming. The reason for this communication, is to make this process and transition as easy as possible for your student and you as a parent. We want to over-communicate rather than under communicate. If you have any concerns about your child's progress or online learning plan, please contact your student's case-manager as soon as possible. We have a large number of people ready to answer any questions you may have pertaining to your student's IEP and any academic content areas. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to helping you and making this process easier.

TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS

UCSD#4 will be staffing a remote technology help desk for students/staff and parents with computer connectivity or hardware issues. **This service will be available every school day from 8 AM to 3 PM. To reach the help desk call 307-782-3377.** Once the automated attendant answers **dial 4204** and you will be connected to the person taking the calls. If they are already taking another call, please leave your name, short reason for the call and your call back number and someone will get a hold of you. You can also seek help by emailing our tech support at it@uinta4.com . Please be aware that we cannot "fix" personal computers or devices, we can only assist you with connectivity issues to authorized school projects.

If you know of someone who needs access to the internet or needs a reliable device in order to do the online work from school, please email me at carrb@uinta4.com.

FOOD SERVICE

Continuing for the time period that we are involved in distance education our food service staff will be distributing sack lunches via curbside pickup at the K-8 building from 11:00 – 12:30. This service is intended for families who regularly participate in our free and reduced lunch program or who have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 recession and slowdown. We are taking the latest information and guidance and working to translate that into how we can best serve the kids in our community. Email Assistant Superintendent Kim Dolezal at dolezalk@uinta4.com with any food service related questions.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL BUILDINGS

All school facilities are closed. This includes the high school locker rooms, gym areas, and hallway lockers.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

All school activities between now and April 17 have been cancelled. I am optimistic that the governor will continue to “stair step” his decisions when it comes to cancelling school. To go two weeks at a time seems like common sense to me and if we have to extend our closure, I hope that is the path he takes. We will hold off on decisions regarding specific events until we know an actual timeline. I know that is difficult, but right now there are some decisions that can't be made until we know a firm timeline.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Local scholarships are due April 10 at 3:30. Those applications need to be emailed to Miss Luper at lupers@uinta4.com . Please make sure your applications are properly labeled and that you have **all the required materials** for each scholarship and they are attached together in an organized manner. Reminder, the deadline is **the second Friday in April**. You must **email your applications to Miss Luper at lupers@uinta4.com** .

CONTACT

Should you have any questions about anything in this newsletter or questions about school moving forward, please contact me by email at carrb@uinta4.com . We will also be updating both the main Uinta 4 web page (www.uinta4.com) and also the main high school webpage (www.mvhs.uinta4.com) with updates as they become available. We communicate with families via our K-12 Swift system as well. Please be sure you are reading all communications that come via text or email.

NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING THOUGHTS

We know that no one chose this situation and it will bring unexpected frustrations. Luckily, we have an awesome group of teachers and awesome students and we can work towards finishing the year positively and remaining optimistic about a return to our school buildings. I appreciate the hard jobs you have ahead of you as students and for the parents as well. I have confidence that if students put forth their best effort and engage with their teachers online, that they will continue to grow and learn as if they were actually in the building.

Please don't hesitate to contact me as we work through these challenging times together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Carr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Carr, Principal
Mountain View High School