

Jimmie Eggers

Superintendent/Principal

March 18, 2020

Hello Marcum Families,

It has been quite a week and we hope that you and your family are adjusting well to all the changes happening right now. We want to assure our families that we are thinking of you frequently and that your families' health and well-being is always our top priority. We already miss seeing our students and are hoping that we can return to some sense of normalcy as soon as possible. In the meantime, we want to let our families know about the plans we have put into place so far for our students.

At Marcum-Illinois, we always want to provide our students with high-quality educational opportunities and ensure that students have the opportunity to interact with their teacher and potentially other students safely. All our teachers have prepared optional learning activities and lessons for our students to complete during this school closure. Some teachers sent home packets, while others will be sharing information online. Starting next week, all teachers will be virtually available to their students and families for at least 2 hours a day, 4 days a week to connect with the students, answer questions, and support overall learning. During this 2-hour period, teachers will have a 30-minute interactive, virtual lesson or activity to participate in with the students. Most teachers will be utilizing Zoom for these meetings so that students can see and hear them. Zoom works well on nearly all devices, including cell phones. Please be patient with our teachers as we start exploring these new platforms. Most of us are new to online learning and there will be some stumbling as we start this adventure. Our teachers are working hard to create opportunities for our students that will allow them to continue to learn, connect with their peers and teacher, and remain healthy and safe. Teachers will contact families directly with their individual schedules and their plans for virtual meetings and learning opportunities. If you indicated that your student may need a device for learning opportunities, we will be contacting you about checking out a device for the duration of the school closure period.

We have also been busy preparing a plan with our food services staff to provide students who may need it with food on a regular basis. Starting on Wednesday, March 25th, we will be providing a weekly drive-thru pick up of breakfasts and lunches for each child in the family. The drive-thru will take place on Wednesdays between 11am and 12pm. We will be doing our first trial run tomorrow, Thursday, 3/19, between 11am-12pm for families that need breakfasts and lunches before next week. We recognize that our students cover a wide distance geographically and encourage families to look to their district of residence for food options as well, as they might be a better fit for them. Most districts are offering food services for any child, regardless of school enrollment.

Although our hope is to have all students and staff return to school on April 14th, our governor has encouraged schools and families to prepare for the possibility that school may not resume until August. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and will adjust our plans as needed to ensure that our students needs are always being considered. We will also continue to update our families with new information as it becomes available.

Please continue to follow the recommended guidelines put forth by the CDC and our local officials to ensure that you and your family stay healthy and safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at the school or on my cell (530)777-8016.

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