

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

March 26, 2020

Dear Mansfield Families,

I hope your family is well and that you are all settling into this new reality. I also hope your children have been working through the supplemental learning materials provided. School staff are committed to supporting continued learning at home. By now you have received communications from your child's school and know that material is on its way. Learning tasks will be provided using electronic systems already in use such as Seesaw and Google Classroom. We are working to limit the paper or other school materials needed to a minimum thus reducing distribution needs. However, we can make paper packets available if needed and also have Chromebooks available for families. Please contact your principal for more information.

As we work together to provide learning for your children, please know that we intend to start slowly and build as we learn together. We seek to find a balance, or at least a manageable load, between the demands of adult work, caring for one's family, and supporting learning.

We believe that by assuming the best in each other and working together we can accomplish this.

We ask that you do the following:

- Develop a structure and schedule to support learning time at home each day.
- Provide a space for your child to work free from as many distractions as possible.
- Support your child to ensure completion of all learning tasks sent to you weekly but do not do the tasks for your child.
- Help your child advocate needs to the teacher, or for young children act as their advocate.
- Monitor use of technology and maintain acceptable use expectations found in the [Middle School Technology AUP](#) and the [Elementary/District Technology AUP](#).
- Communicate as needed with teachers. Expect personal outreach once a week and replies to emails within 24 hours.
- When requested, help your child "return" work completed to teachers.

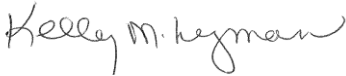
A word about video use. We have been carefully reviewing video platforms, especially those that allow for real-time video conferencing. We have sought out a system that has appropriate controls for use with children younger than high school age. Zoom, a video and audio conferencing system, provides the protections we seek. When teachers want to engage students in video they will use this system. When sending videos for viewing only, or when connecting with a child while an adult in the home is present, teachers may use Zoom or Google Hangouts/Meets. More information will be shared with you should your child's teacher choose to use video conferencing.

You are likely aware that the governor has now announced that schools are closed until April 20. He has also suggested that schools could in fact be closed for the remainder of the year but there has been no decision at this time that extends school closing beyond April 20. The week of April 13 is our school vacation week and we will honor that vacation as well as the holiday on Friday, April 10. We may all need a little break by then and this time also allows our staff to make adjustments to our School at Home process. Further, we have been granted the right to conclude school as scheduled. The last student day is Monday, June 22. (Please note that we do not yet know if meals can be distributed during a school vacation.)

All of us have been barraged with a tremendous amount of information recently. We hope that a weekly contact from a teacher will provide you someone to whom you can ask questions or share concerns. These contacts will begin next week. We also are building out a webpage on the Mansfield Schools website where we will post a variety of resources and information. Please access it often; more information to follow.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly M. Lyman".

Kelly M. Lyman