April 29, 2020

Families of ASD-S Students:

This is the seventh week since our seventy schools closed and on behalf of the District we thank you for your on-going patience and understanding over this time period. The “Continuity of Learning Plan,” was announced on April 2 and since then our 1,700 teachers have worked hard to connect with families on-line or on the telephone. It has been a steep learning curve for us and we are grateful for your support and the work you are able to do with your students. We appreciate that family situations are varied and we in no way expect you to take on the role of a classroom teacher, as we know our teachers cannot offer the same learning opportunities they do inside the classroom.

Our schools will remain closed for the remainder of the year. Principals, in consultation with their staff, are developing a process and time frame to allow for the retrieval of items from desks and lockers which will be shared with you through School Messenger/ school website. These retrieval dates will vary by school and may begin as early as the week of May 4, 2020. In larger schools with lockers in close proximity, this process will take longer.

Below we have outlined some general guidelines for retrieving student items. It is critical that everyone respect the safety guidelines of Public Health so we can ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

Procedure:

At K-5 and K-8 schools, and possibly some middle schools, a parent/guardian is asked to pick up the items. Some schools may package up the items in a bag and label for quick pick-up. At high school, students may clean out their locker. If the school is not packing up the materials, please remember to bring bags.

If you are having another person pick up your student’s belongings you must notify the Principal in advance.

Principals will let you know which entrance(s) will be used and you will be met by a staff member. Each person will be asked to review the questions on the poster from Public Health displayed in the window. On entry to the school you will be asked to wash your hands using designated washrooms. It is recommended that you wash your hands again after leaving the school.

While in the school please maintain physical distancing of 2m/6ft. There will be staff hall monitors in place to help give directions and indicate the appropriate exit.
A mask is not required but as in other public places it is encouraged.

Students who regularly use assistive technology as part of their educational program will be able to have the devices picked up for home use. The items have been cleaned thoroughly.

Band instruments will also be available to be picked up.

Please note that families cannot return any textbooks/materials to the school at this time.

Schools will open one evening as we know some K-5/K-8 parents are essential workers and may not be available during day hours.

School fields and playgrounds will remain closed until further notice.

Thank you for taking the time to review this important information. It is essential that everyone work together to ensure it is done in a safe and efficient manner. A reminder that for updated information for families, please check our website, Twitter or Facebook. We also send parent emails using School Messenger.

ASD-S appreciates your support. We hope you and your family are doing well.

Yours truly,

Zoe Watson
Superintendent

/cmm