

SPRING CONFERENCES UPDATE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we continue in the fifth week of our “new normal,” I hope everyone in your household remains safe and healthy. Given the extraordinary situation presented by the outbreak of COVID-19, the teachers and administrators of your child’s school are working hard to maintain strong connections and relationships with you and your family; to engage your children directly in the curriculum in thoughtful ways, and to provide services and supports to help meet the many needs of the entire school community. With that said, we readily acknowledge that the remote learning experience cannot replicate the physical classroom environment and the kind of learning that takes place with a child’s teacher every day in a physical classroom.

At this time of year, you and your child’s teacher usually schedule conferences to discuss your child’s progress. For these conferences, teachers would gather a range of artifacts of student work as well as data from spring benchmark assessments in mathematics and literacy to help inform their discussions with you. Under the current situation, our students are faced with such a range of conditions that influence their learning experiences and teachers are unable to gather the information about your child’s work and the assessment data that they need in order to meaningfully discuss your child’s progress.

We have, therefore, decided that the traditional spring conferences this year needs to be different.

Acknowledging that teachers do not have the information at hand to discuss student progress, if you have something else you would like to talk over with your child’s teacher, you are most welcome to reach out to them during their regularly scheduled “office hours.”

Our intent is to determine each child’s progress when we return to school, hopefully within the next few weeks, and to provide you with a more informed assessment of your child’s learning and growth when we resume conferences in the fall. Know that your child’s teacher remains committed to maintaining a strong relationship with you and your child and will continue to provide for their learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher, your school principal or me with any questions.

On behalf of our very dedicated and caring teachers, we thank you for your partnership with us during this difficult time and remain optimistic that we will soon be able to return to our schools.

Sincerely,

Terry Duggan, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning