

Good afternoon parents and students,

I want to thank you for all coming together and taking care of each other over the last several days. It is unfortunate that we won't be able to be together at school for the next few weeks and possibly longer. I want to assure you that we are going to do everything we possibly can to support your students and you from a distance. All of our communication with parents will be either over the phone or virtually through the Class Dojo app. Your child's teacher will be calling you to set that app up on your phone if you don't already have it. I will also be able to share school wide messages, such as this, through our Monte Vista School District Facebook page, our app, and our automated text system.

The first thing we are getting off the ground to support students is providing them food pickup each day from 11am to 1pm. If you have students at the secondary level as well as elementary students, you will need to pick up all students' lunches at the elementary building. This program will be free for all of our students Monday through Thursday until we are back in school or the school year is over. Tomorrow during the first pickup we will also have all of the students' materials that they had left here at school for you to pick up.

The second piece we are putting in place is common communication tools and expectations for all teachers with parents and students. Students in PK through 5th grade will be having work put together by teachers and available for pick up along with food each Thursday from 11am-1pm. Teachers will also be making contact with students and/or parents at least twice a week to check on students progress and help students and parents work through any questions you have. They also will be sharing information - announcements, individual messages for students, virtual worksheets, videos, etc through the Class Dojo app. You can send messages to the teachers at any time using the app. Each grade level will also have "office hours" that parents will be able to call teachers. They are on Monday-Thursday as follows:

- 1st grade: 9-11am
- 2nd grade: 2-4pm
- 3rd grade: 9-11am
- 4th grade: 2-4pm
- 5th grade: 11am-1pm

The third piece we are putting in place as of this Thursday is the learning focus for students. We are asking students to do some reading, writing, and math every school day for a few hours. Teachers will give specific instructions of what that will look like at each grade level. If students are putting forth effort and participating in those subjects, they will receive a passing grade for the time we are out of school. 3rd-5th grade students will be using Google classroom online as much as possible so the amount of things to pick up at the school other than food will be minimal unless they don't have internet access. We do have chromebooks available for 3rd-5th grade students to check out if needed. Students across all grade levels with internet access will be asked to use programs they are familiar with here at school such as I-Station reading, I-Ready math, Big Ideas Math, and Epic.

The last piece we would like to eventually provide is learning and support in the other content areas and virtual counseling lessons. However, these first couple of weeks will be a lot

of review of past content and skills as we work out kinks in the system. Then we can start exploring how to teach the new content in this different way.

We know we are asking a lot of parents and want to support you in any way that we can. I encourage parents to create a schedule for their child on school days to create consistency and structure as young learners need those to be successful. As I told my staff today, things will evolve over time and we will improve as we go. Don't expect things to be perfect, just be the best you can be and give the kids what they need! Thank you for being in this together with us!

Sincerely,
Gabe Futrell
BME Principal