

April 3, 2020

Coronavirus Update #9 - Week 2 Of Distance Learning

To All Watertown-Mayer Families & Staff

This is an update from Watertown-Mayer-public schools as we come to the end of week one of distance learning.

I would like to begin by thanking all staff, students and families for all you have done to contribute to our distance learning plan. Your patience, perseverance, and collective commitment to make the best of these very challenging times is greatly appreciated. I would also like to offer a huge note of thanks and appreciation to our childcare and food service employees for their work in supporting emergency and healthcare families with childcare and for providing ongoing nutrition service for children throughout the district.

Our distance learning plan is up and running and I am pleased to share that attendance has been positive with nearly 100 percent of students connecting with their teachers during week one. We continue to update the COVID-19 webpage on the district website to provide students and their families with a wide variety of resources for support throughout the duration of distance learning. In addition to all of the information needed to support student needs in our [distance learning classrooms](#), the webpage offers resources that include:

- [Information on our school nutrition program](#) offering bagged lunch and breakfast for all children ages 18 and under who are interested in receiving that service. All children in the district have the option to receive breakfast and lunch throughout the week with pickups scheduled from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on Mondays and Thursdays at Watertown-Mayer High School Door #6 and the City Hall parking lot in Mayer. Please call 952-955-0619 if you are unable to pick up and we will deliver.
- [A community resources section](#) with links to information and support from the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education, internet access guidance and support, as well as our district's technology help desk.
- [A frequently asked questions section](#) on the COVID-19 homepage that we continue to update. The FAQs also include links to additional information on the website in response to the questions we receive.
- A [contact us page](#), providing families an additional level of access and support to maintain connections between home and school. Please use these contacts as needed, following our usual channels of communication outlined in school handbooks.

Over the past two weeks, we have devoted many hours to develop a plan and train staff on our distance learning tools. Please be patient with us as we continue to learn and adapt our plan to ensure all students are receiving authentic instruction. To that end, we would like to hear from you. Please watch for a survey that we are planning to send next week to help us adjust and improve our distance learning plans to ensure we are meeting student and family needs in the weeks ahead.

As I have previously shared, we are truly living through a time without precedent in recent history. It's a time that will present us all with many challenges in the weeks to come. However, I want you all to know that Watertown-Mayer Schools continue to stand committed to make authentic learning connections in support of all of our students and families.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and the Watertown-Mayer School District. And please, stay home, stay safe, and stay healthy.

Go Royals!

Ron Wilke
Superintendent of Schools