



Dear Parents and Guardians,

May 4, 2020

We hope this letter finds you and your family doing the best you can under these unprecedented circumstances. We could not be more proud of being a part of the Wisconsin Rapids community and a partner with you in your child's education. With only an initial weekend to prepare, our students, families, teachers, and staff quickly embraced our off-campus learning approach, and we sincerely appreciate everyone's efforts!

The focus at the elementary level during this time of closure has been on student engagement and enrichment with our teachers providing activities, support, and feedback, especially in the areas of literacy, writing and numeracy. Whether in the building or not, our elementary teachers are striving to build a solid foundation for students. We hope you are finding their efforts helpful and are comfortable reaching out to them should you need additional activities, resources, or guidance.

Last week it was announced that schools in Wisconsin will not reopen for on-campus learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. We want to reassure you that our elementary teachers will continue to provide engaging activities and enrichment resources so our students have a solid foundation for the next grade level. No student will be held back as a result of the school closure due to COVID-19.

As a result of this latest closure news, we have made necessary adjustments to how our third trimester will be reported. Items that are being completed at the elementary level during the closure are not being given grades. Instead, teachers will continue to provide written or verbal feedback through various communication methods such as Google classroom, virtual meetings, email, phone conversations, and more. The communication shared between teachers, students, and parents/guardians provide the best insight about progress. We will continue to be diligent in providing steady communication throughout the remainder of our third trimester. Please reach out to your children(s) teacher whenever you have questions or concerns.

The typical year-end assessments such as Benchmark Books, PALS, and STAR assessments, will not be administered this year. In the past, teachers used that assessment data as well as classroom progress to determine end of year progress toward learning goals. Due to the third trimester changes with instructional delivery, when end of year progress reports are completed for the 2019-20 school year, final trimester reporting will indicate an "N/A" score for all areas. Also, this year's final progress reports will include a narrative section from your student(s) teacher in the comment section which will provide a picture of overall achievement for the student for the year. The calendar for progress report delivery will not change. Progress reports will be available to families online on June 11, 2020. By June 15, 2020, all progress reports will be mailed home.

We want you to know that even though our students have missed out on being in our buildings, when they return in the fall our teachers will meet them where they are - academically, socially, and emotionally. In the months ahead, our teachers will be working collaboratively among and between grade levels (including a focus on helping the transition from elementary to middle school for our 5th grade students) in order to assess and adjust teaching and learning based on the skills and experiences students may have missed during this year. Rest assured, teachers will be looking at the curriculum and will adjust their instruction at the beginning of the year to review essential topics as well as introduce those that may not have been covered in the previous year.

We look forward to our continued partnership as we complete this school year and move into next school year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please reach out to the classroom teacher or your building principal.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction