



CLARENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Geoffrey M. Hicks
Superintendent of Schools

Robert E. Moore
Principal

Ashley Dreibelbis
Assistant Principal

Elizabeth Chelus
Assistant Principal

March 25, 2020

Dear CMS Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for reaching out to us to share your thoughts and ideas regarding this most challenging time. Thank you also for all you have done at home to support your children. It will be important moving forward for all of us to exercise patience. As much as this is a serious challenge for all of us, it is also an opportunity for us to think creatively and to do things we never thought possible. As always, I encourage you to keep the lines of communication open and to contact any of us directly with issues of concern.

Given the extraordinary challenges that COVID -19 presents, please know that we are making every effort to provide the best remote learning possible under the circumstances. We recognize that we cannot treat this situation as “business as usual.” Guidelines have been sent to the faculty that emphasize flexibility in assigning, correcting, and grading work. The recommended general time frame for learning will be 20-25 minutes per day for each course. This includes the time it takes to complete assignments. We know we cannot replicate electronically what we would do in classrooms on a daily basis. Teachers have been instructed to give students multiple opportunities to complete work. We have also requested that teachers not give failing grades or zeros on assignments. Please encourage your children to do the best they can and have them reach out to their teachers with questions as they are able.

Knowing the pressure you are under, we want to assure you that we will do everything to hold all children “harmless” during this period of uncertainty. That means that we will err on the side of leniency and moderation when it comes to assessing students and assigning work. To do otherwise would be completely inappropriate. We are also working to ensure that every child will receive the academic support they need within the limits of this remote paradigm. You may, in the next few days, have a teacher or other staff member contact you if your student has not been engaged in remote activities. Specific supports will be provided based on their individual needs. Teachers are using Schoology, Google Classroom, Google Meet, and other digital platforms to deliver instruction as best they can. Our guidance counselors have made themselves available remotely to address student concerns and anxiety.

Finally, I want to send my best and heartfelt wishes to all members of the Clarence Middle School community for your continued health and safety.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Moore
Principal

Ashley Dreibelbis
Assistant Principal

Elizabeth Chelus
Assistant Principal