

*Monday, March 23, 2020*

Wildcat Family,

I first want to say that I have been praying for all of you and your families and loved ones. I hope that everyone is ok! Please be careful during this time and take precautions if you are out and about. I know many places have been shut down and things are kind of crazy at the moment, but take this time to refocus on those things that truly matter. We will do all we can to continue to provide an education to our babies, but health and safety take precedence now.

Thank you to everyone for getting our grade level packets together for the next 20 days and the ladies in the front office for running stuff off for 8 hours a days for several days. Everyone did so much to get us prepared for an extension should there be one. Since we completed our packets (every student will get a packet) on Friday the school will be closed until we hear differently. The custodians are spending the next two days wiping down everything and making sure that we are ready to open up when the time comes.

I have a couple of items that I have pasted in this email so that you all will have the most up to date information available from the county.

From: Mr. Pleasant

I know you are all hard at work trying to guide your teams towards providing support for a longer time period than we originally planned so I will be brief. Please communicate the need to move toward using Canvas LMS over other digital LMS type solutions like Google Classrooms. I know this is a difficult time to ask for a move away from what they may have been doing for quite some time but I have two compelling reasons for doing so. First, the Division of Information Services has vastly more expertise with Canvas than we do with Google Classrooms. This means we offer the best support to teachers, parents, and students when we use Canvas and not so much with Google Classrooms. Second, we have a paid 24/7 help line (1-855-289-2445) with Canvas for teachers to use when they need help, in addition to the help DIS can offer. We do not have any similar arrangement with Google so teachers will need to fend for themselves much more.

From: Mrs. Bloodworth

We need for any non-exempt employees (those who ring in/out) who are actually working to continue to enter their hours as normal. This is to make sure that we do not need to pay anyone overtime. They only need to enter the hours they are actually working whether is it at the worksite or remotely. It does not matter if they are working less than their normal hours. They will still get paid for their normal hours and any time they work over their normal hours.

Those who are not working do not need to do anything at this point. They are still getting paid even if they do not record any hours.

Mrs. Bloodworth did state that she will be sending out more information before Friday the 27th so that everyone will be clear about what they need to do in regards to time cards.

Work hours continue to be the same for everyone: 9-11/1-3 for student questions and normal hours for county emails, FRE emails, conference calls, etc.

If you have not already, please keep a contact log (in IC and written) for all you students. If you are using DOJO, Canvas, IC or other means to contact parents please document your contacts. Teacher much contact their students a minimum of twice per week.

If you need help setting up a Canvas classroom, please contact DIS or Kim King and she will walk you through the progress.

I am trying to figure out the Canvas classroom and will set up a leadership and faculty meeting this week. We are getting some information about the SIP for next year and will begin working on that process as soon as everything calms down.

TKES/LKES has been suspended UNTIL.

If you have not read the information from the DOE, there will be no testing this year. No GMAS, GAA, EOC, etc.

I am personally praying that they do not cancel graduation because my baby boy is supposed to walk this year and I would hate for him to have to miss out, but again, it is about safety.

I am available every day no matter the time if any of you need something or have some questions. I know there has been some issues with Clever and on line log ins and the county is aware of the issues and are working to correct any problems that are present.

I will email everyone when I get the canvas meeting set.

Please continue to be blessed.

Kevin Aviles'

Principal

Forrest Road Elementary School

"Inspire Change"