

Dear USD 475 Parents,

By now you are aware that in order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus and keep our students and staff safe, the Governor of Kansas has required all schools in the state to close and cease in-person instruction effective the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. This does require school districts to create a plan for the continuation of instruction and education in Kansas.

Your school officials have been working diligently since this announcement to create a viable and approved Continuous Learning plan for the students in USD 475. This plan will be addressed in two Phases, allowing for the appropriate training of all teachers to utilize this new platform.

Phase 1 includes providing parents and students with a variety of resources they can use in their new home school environments. All of these resources are tools most of your students are already familiar with and have utilized. We suggest students spend some time with these sites between March 23rd and March 31st as your student prepares for their approved Continuous Learning curriculum which will be Phase 2. We do not have any specific expectations or assessment of your student's use of these resources at this time. Those resources can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/475school> in both English and Spanish. At this link, you will see documents specific to each grade level as well as a few documents with directions for programs.

Phase 2 will begin on April 1. At this time, we will expect all Kindergarten through twelfth grade students in USD 475 to engage in their new Continuous Learning environment. You will want to insure student devices stay charged for use during the school day. Your student's teacher(s) will be in touch with each student/family to share exactly what times of the day these lessons will occur and how they are expected to interact. This learning will include on-line face to face formats with their teachers as well as remote submission of work depending upon the age of the student. Student continuous interactions with teachers and content will provide the best possible opportunities for success. We will also track "attendance" of each student's participation on-line as well as conduct assessments of the learning. Attention to both this on-line attendance and assessments will allow for your child to be promoted to the next grade. Early Childhood personnel will be in touch with families to discuss continuous learning for this age group. While we are all saddened by the loss of the ability to continue in our typical schooling, we are very excited to offer our families this new learning format.

More than anything, we are concerned with the safety and well-being of all of our students, staff and their families. We appreciate the grace afforded during this transition to on-line Continuous Learning and we want you to know we are here for you as we all maneuver to this new learning environment. Once your child's teachers make contact with your student, please do not hesitate to ask any questions you have regarding expectations.

We are still developing a plan for any parent needing to obtain their child's device, secure a hot spot for facilitation of learning, or needing technical assistance. This information will be provided as soon as possible.

As mentioned above, we appreciate the understanding and grace given as we make this transition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, your building principal, or district office staff. We are ALL here to support the USD 475 family!

Sincerely,

Pam Irwin, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning & the entire USD 475 Teaching and Learning Team