

# MORTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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March 26, 2020

Dear Morton Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and doing well under the unusual circumstances that we are dealing with as a community. Please know that the Morton staff sincerely misses our students, and we look forward to the day when we can all be in school together again!

Up to this point in our unexpected leave of absence from school, we know students have been busy and working hard on the Unplugged and Family Fun activities provided by the district. Spring Break, March 30 – April 3, will be a time to focus on family, rest and rejuvenation to finish our school year strong. Beginning Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 17, 2020, the district will be implementing Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) days. We know there are many questions circulating as to the structure of NTI days. Please read below the answers to questions we have heard from you.

## *What does NTI mean for students?*

Our teachers have been spending time developing quality standards based lessons to provide for students outside the school setting. Students should expect daily assignments and communication from their teachers. As always, teachers will be monitoring student work for mastery; therefore, these assignments should be completed and taken seriously since they will be graded.

## *How will students receive instruction?*

By April 6, teachers will communicate with students as to how lessons will be delivered to them. Some teachers have chosen a digital platform such as Google Classroom, enVision, Collections, etc. while other teachers will be emailing lessons to students. Many parents have stopped by to pick up Chromebooks for use during NTI days. If you have not been able to check one out as of yet and are interested in doing so, please contact us, and we will do our best to make that option available to you. For students who do not have digital access, paper packets can be provided for you; just let your Team Leader know.

For any student with a specialized education plan, accommodations and modifications will be implemented. Teachers and Case Managers will be communicating more individualized information with families.

## *What if I need technology support?*

We are fortunate that the district is setting up a temporary helpdesk to call for any family needing technical support with a student's FCPS account or Chromebook. The Tech Support number is 381-4410. Someone will be available to talk to you Monday – Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, beginning March 23, 2020. However, the helpdesk line will not be available the week of Spring Break.

## *When do students receive report cards for the third nine weeks?*

All final third quarter grades have been posted in Infinite Campus. These can be accessed through the student or parent IC portal. Our counselors will be sharing specific steps for this process. If you need help or have a question about IC, email your student's counselor. Heather Ferguson (A-K) and Joe Dewees (L-Z)

We want to leave you with one piece of information that will excite students... and maybe even parents. There will be no K-PREP testing this school year! As students hear daily during afternoon announcements, "The sun always shines in the halls of Morton!" We hope during these tough times, you can remember we are still Team Morton, and there will be sunny days ahead.

Ronda Runyon  
Morton Principal