

March 27, 2020

Subject: Remote Learning Guidance Update for FFC8 Families

Dear FFC8 Families,

I hope you are safe and healthy during the unprecedented landscape we face and that your family continues to be the top priority.

As you know, the Governor ordered public and private schools in Colorado to suspend “normal, in-person instruction” through April 17 and to develop a plan to continue instruction for students. The Public Health Order issued Wednesday, March 25 (attached below with the original Executive Order) has also provided guidance in planning for school and district operations moving forward. Therefore, we expect most of our staff to work from home to contribute to the district mission of providing educational services to all of our students as well as continuing to serve meals to our families.

Just as the Fountain-Fort Carson community has done in the past, I am confident that students, staff, and families will rise to the challenge currently before us regarding the continued education of all students. Based on the constraints and guidelines issued from the state, district and school administrators have collaborated consistently to develop plans to continue learning and instruction in our schools for all children. As a result, remote learning environments have been engineered K-12 with the universal goal of all students confidently progressing to the next grade level in the 20-21 school year. In addition, another significant priority is to provide secondary students the opportunity to continue to earn credit and engage in college entrance exams and AP exams this spring. *However, we must be very mindful that remote learning will not be expected to serve the same level of intensity or instructional time that we conducted with in-class learning. Collectively, we believe that students will benefit and will be able to improve their grades from the opportunities presented during remote learning. Because we understand the continued challenges that families face during these difficult times, student grades will not be negatively impacted during the remote learning process.*

Attached you will find the preliminary schedule for remote learning for elementary students and for secondary students as well as information related to internet connectivity options. Because this is a new landscape for parents, students, teachers, and administrators, we ask for your patience as we begin implementation on April 7. As user feedback is collected and evaluated, we are committed to making dynamic adjustments to meet the individual needs of all our students. Please anticipate further communication as remote learning is implemented, and please communicate with your child’s teacher(s) or school administrators with specific questions or concerns in the weeks to come.

As mentioned above, meals will continue to be served throughout the most recent closure orders. Beginning Monday, March 30, we will provide meals at four sites: Carson Middle School and Mountainside Elementary on Fort Carson, and Aragon Elementary and Mesa Elementary in

Fountain. Our goal is to ensure families throughout the district have access to the meals they may need during this time. An informational flyer is attached below.

We want every student to finish the year strong, advancing the knowledge and skills they have already mastered. While the educational setting for students has changed, be assured that teachers, administrators, district and school staff stand united to support students and families as we continue to navigate the challenges of the weeks ahead.

Together,

Lori A. Cooper, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement
Fountain – Fort Carson School District 8