

April 17, 2020

Dear Mayfield Parents/Guardians, Staff and Community,

As we continue to move forward during this unprecedented time, I want to extend our appreciation and support to our students, parents, staff and community.

We've finished our third week of remote, online learning, and I want to emphasize that we are moving the needle forward for our students and their education.

From the beginning of the stay at home order, we made clear that our priority is to continue the teaching and learning for all of our students. We are achieving that mission.

More than 650 parents completed a recent survey to gauge how we are conducting our online, remote learning which began March 30, 2020. Overall, our students and parents shared that they are engaged with their teachers and advancing through their curriculum.

I want to commend our teachers, principals and administrative team for their tireless work to remotely collaborate daily and during weekly meetings. Our teams continue to ask the question, "How can we do better?" Thanks to our teachers, staff and community support, we are getting better every day of this challenge caused by COVID-19. Of course, there have been bumps and unexpected obstacles, but together – slow and steady – we are moving the needle forward on this school year.

I'd like to share some positives from the past week.

- MHS teacher Corey Rice created 50 protective face shields with left over materials from our Fab Lab which were donated to Hillcrest Hospital.
- Our buildings and grounds team gathered our unused inventory of non-surgical aprons and paper face masks from our science labs which were donated to Hillcrest Hospital and a local fire department.
- Our IT team has created a YouTube station for the transmission of the Board's regular meeting on April 22 at 5:30 p.m. <u>Mayfield Board of Education April 22 Meeting.</u>
- Our parents continue to share words of support and encouragement which is greatly appreciated. Below are a few excerpts:

I had to send a note and say the Center Fifth Grade Team is hitting the ball out of the park with the remote learning. The information is easy to find and they have provided students and parents several checklists and grids to help everyone stay organized. The amount of work seems right with appropriate assignments that are not just "busy work." Over the couple of weeks, they have changed some things and seem to be looking at how they can improve learning experiences, organization and logistics from week to week.

Concetta has done an amazing job creating her virtual classroom and leading and supporting her colleagues. She has even held a parent "zoom" session to connect with parents and teach them how to support their children. Truly a top-notch educator!

The lessons we have been given are well prepared, clear cut and easy to walk my son through. The countless hours they have prepped (I can only imagine) have made accessing all of the materials, completing and submitting the work as easy as if they were in my home doing it with us. Being in education myself I have a great understanding for every effort your teachers have made. Not one thing has gone unnoticed or is

unappreciated. I wanted to share my gratitude for them assuring our kids finish this year as strong as possible and prepared for the fourth grade.

While my son would much prefer being in school, the assignments sent out have been clear, easy to follow, and in one place. As a working parent (feeling guilty I can't help him more!), you've made this transition as easy as possible for both of us. Thank you for all you're doing to help the kids (and parents) adjust to this new normal.

Words can't express how thankful we are to you both and the rest of the staff at Center School. Our teachers have been absolutely AMAZING and have made remote learning the best and easiest transition for us.

I forgot to thank you yesterday about the help you provided Andy on his math problem, it was like a magic trick! We have been trying to figure that problem for at least 20 minutes and then you came in via zoom and it was like a math epiphany, even Andy's eyes lit up! Thank you!!!

Thank you so much for all that you are doing to support our students with special needs. The connections you have made and support you are providing makes all the difference during this stressful time.

These are uncertain times and this pandemic changes day by day and hour by hour. We continue to work together to best serve our students, families and communities.

I also want our students to know something: We miss you! We miss seeing your smiling faces and talking with you. All of us became educators to support students just like you.

Please continue to practice the repeated health and safety recommendations – Stay home, wash your hands and practice strict social distancing. If you are ill or are experiencing possible symptoms, contact your health provider or call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline 1-800-4-ASKODH (1-800-427-5634).

There are many resources available online for your health, safety and mental wellness. Mayfield Schools has a hub of resources related to the coronavirus pandemic and information to assist families. These resources can be found on our website <u>Mayfield City Schools Coronavirus Information and Resources</u>.

Sincerely,

Keith Kelly, Superintendent