

Mount Vernon Community School District Families:

Accompanying this letter you will find links to a variety of learning activities to access while the school district is closed. There is a wide variety of activities for students of all ages and interest areas. I am grateful for the hard work of our staff in putting these activities together. Hard copies of some of these activities will also be available at the District Office. If you are still in need of a computer and/or access to the Internet, please email me at [gbatenhorst@mvcasd.org](mailto:gbatenhorst@mvcasd.org) and we'll take care of you.

While providing continuity in learning for our students is extremely important, the most important thing for all of us is to do our part in mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This is accomplished by remaining in our homes as much as possible, and by practicing physical distancing norms when outside the home. Students and parents should not be on the campus of any of the schools during the closure unless given permission by me. You are free to walk through the campus as part of an exercise routine and family walk as long as groups of people do not gather, and you follow physical distancing guidelines.

In following guidelines from the Iowa Department of Education, school districts may provide e-learning activities but may not require students to engage in them. These services must also take into account equity in the delivery of learning activities, ensuring that as many barriers as possible are knocked down so that students living in poverty or having any form of disability have the opportunity to access and benefit from the activities. These learning activities are designed to keep students engaged in learning so that upon returning to school they are prepared for jumping back into the regular school environment. Students will not be involved in an extension of the work they were doing prior to the closure; and thus the learning activities are not a continuation of where they left off prior to the closure, and they are not required to turn in any assignments while the District is closed. Any work assigned prior to the closure, and any work or assessments that are incomplete from the third quarter, will not be addressed until we return to school on a regular basis. Therefore, students do not need to worry at this time about making up a missed assessment or turning in missing work at this time.

Mount Vernon High School students who are taking a class through Kirkwood Community College, whether on campus, on our campus, or online: You are responsible for following the guidelines you have received from Kirkwood, and are responsible for maintaining contact with your teacher to continue your work in these courses.

As you look at what a “typical” day may look while school is not in session, we encourage you to establish some sense of routine like students are used to while in school. Here is a structure you may want to use as a guide, but of course you are free to structure your day in a way that works best for you:

**Morning: Two hour block of time to engage in learning activities provided**

**Afternoon: One hour block of time to engage in learning activities, along with another hour of time to engage in exercise and fitness activities (get outside when you can while practicing physical distancing guidelines)**

**Morning or Afternoon: 30-60 minutes of reading**

The District has secured a grant that allows it to serve lunch for its students. These lunches will be distributed Monday through Friday from 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Davis Park. We will also provide delivery as needed. Please note this service is available for all children ages 0-18, and not just for those who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch. If you have not already informed the District of your intention to access this program, and you wish to access this program, please contact Amy Weber at [aweber@mvcasd.org](mailto:aweber@mvcasd.org). This will allow us to get an estimate on the number of lunches to prepare.

Accompanying this message is a letter from Tanager Place regarding the availability of social-emotional support services if you should desire such services during the time of the school closure. I want to thank Tanager Place for their great support during these challenging times. Our counselors and nurses will also be available as needed.

Moving forward, the building principals will be reaching out to you to see how things are going, and how they may be of assistance to you. They will also make you aware of any other learning opportunities that may become available over time. I am sure I am missing something, but for now we will jump into our new reality and adjust as needed. The best ways to contact us during the closure is to call us at 319-895-8845, or email me at [gbatenhorst@mvcasd.org](mailto:gbatenhorst@mvcasd.org). Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Dr. B.