

Mount Vernon Families:

The recent severe storm has created numerous challenges for families, including access to the internet. With most students attending school every other day in the hybrid schedule, and others learning remotely, access to the internet will be important for full engagement in the learning process. Last Friday, we sent a survey to parents asking if their home internet services were in working order. While we received survey answers from about 550 families, this still leaves over 350 families that we did not hear from. One assumption is that we potentially did not hear from some families due to their inability to access the survey via email. We also know many people who initially answered in the survey that they did not have access to the internet at the time of the completion of the survey, now have access to the internet. In an effort to have an accurate picture of who does not have internet access of today, we are asking that you do the following if you do not currently have internet services and did not complete the initial survey sent to you:

If you currently do not have access to the internet, please contact the building principal of your child's school. If you have children in multiple schools, please contact each school with your information.

If your children are learning remotely at the beginning of the school year, they will need access to the internet. If your home does not have internet service, and you do not have an alternative place to access the internet, all three schools will be open at the following times to allow remote learners to access internet services:

8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Most families who have chosen to engage in remote learning have done so to avoid being in the regular school environment. If remote learners choose to come to school to access the internet, the students will be in spaces where the wearing of face coverings and physical distance guidelines will be in place. Remote learners may learn at their own pace, and thus may also wait until internet access is available at home prior to beginning course work.

If your children are learning in the hybrid model at the beginning of the school year, they may also need access to the internet to complete work while engaging in learning on their "home" days. Hybrid learners at Washington Elementary will not need access to the internet on their "home" days, but students at Mount Vernon Middle School and Mount Vernon High School may need such access. With this in mind, all three schools will be open at the following times to allow hybrid learners to access internet services:

8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Please contact the secretaries of the building your children attend if you plan to use the open hours at the school. This will allow us to plan for spacing and supervision. Again, space will be available for students with the wearing of face coverings and social distancing in place. The schools may also make school work available in paper form as needed for hybrid students.

If you have any special circumstances impacting the learning of your children that the schools need to be made aware of, please contact the principals at the respective schools for assistance. We apologize that the storm has thrown another obstacle in your way, and we appreciate your patience and persistence as we work through these various challenges. We look forward to starting the school year on Monday!

Take care.

Dr. B.