

MuncieCommunitySchools

2500 N. ELGIN STREET • MUNCIE, IN 47303- 2241

Prepare Now - Anticipate the Future

April 16, 2020

To Our MCS Families and Learners,

We hope each of you is managing during this challenging time for all. As we strive to stay connected with our MCS learners, we know that school looks and feels different now as we have moved from a traditional classroom to remote learning. All of us know that learning can take place in many different settings and as we adjust to this new situation our goal remains the same, "Placing Learners First." To do this, we are committed to strengthening our partnership with our families through regular contact in whatever means circumstances permit.

The MCS Board, the administration, and our teachers know that this is not an easy time for anyone. With that having been said, we recognize that most all of you are doing a wonderful job at balancing work, inside or outside of the home, taking care of your family, and finding time to help your children learn. We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge all you are doing and share with you how we will continue to support our students and you. By the same token, if you need help in this process, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, principal or me. We will strive to assist you in any way possible to keep placing our learners first, not only during this time of unprecedented challenge, but ALWAYS.

In placing our learners first, MCS is committed to:

- Providing weekly meal packets every Monday at 22 sites and daily meals at Longfellow Elementary, Northside Middle School, Southside Middle School and Central High School.
- Supporting students' academic learning through learning packets and online study via Schoology and other tools such as ZOOM to connect students and classrooms.
- Bolstering students' emotional health through weekly connections with teachers, counselors and other staff. MCS staff are key adults in our learners' lives and we want to stay connected.

Recognizing the limited amount of time you have, we greatly appreciate the role of our families in your children's learning. Understanding these limitations, we ask that you try to make time for the following activities:

- Setting aside time (at least 30 minutes) each day for reading. Read, read, read!
- Encouraging your children to do as much of the work as they can. Their teachers are trying to keep them from falling behind and striving to move ahead. Know that we do not expect you to be teachers and we appreciate the support being provided.
- Establishing a schedule will be helpful during this time. For questions or help, you or your children can reach out to their teachers.

Families may ask, why are we continuing this type of learning? The answer is simple; we believe that even with remote learning it offers much-needed routines, lessons and relationships to your children. Aspects of their daily life that they can count on when so much has changed around them can provide an element of security and constructive distraction. For this reason, we plan to continue until May 19, the scheduled last day of school. However, we will continue to monitor student engagement and the health of our teachers. If needed, we will revisit the ending date. Again, please reach out to us for how else we might support you knowing we are all doing the best that we can. You may call the school number for assistance. When we are able to open schools, we will send out a timeline for picking up student belongings. We cannot lose sight of the ways in which we have come together to support one another. Thank you.

Best regards, and stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee Ann Kwiatkowski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'K'.

Lee Ann Kwiatkowski
MCS Director of Public Education and Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'W'.

Jim Williams
President, MCS Board of Trustees