`

@NCSNJ

<https://www.instagram.com/ncselem/>

March 18, 2020

Dear Northfield Families,

I hope this letter finds everyone healthy and well. I will not include calm in my sentiment as I am sure that, like us at school, everyone is adjusting to this “new normal.” I would like to thank everyone for your patience and continued support throughout the first few days of our closure. By continuing to communicate with each other and working together we will be able to meet the challenges we are sure to experience in the days ahead. In response to recent developments and feedback we have received, I want to share the following information.

* School emails have been activated for all students in grades K-8 to allow for communication with the teachers. The student email format is the student lunch number followed by @ncs-nj.org (i.e. [123456@ncs-nj.org](mailto:123456@ncs-nj.org)).
* The school building is closed to public access. If there is an emergency and you must access the building, we ask that you contact your building principal (email is the best form of contacting them) to make special arrangements.
* Teachers will continue to connect with their students on a daily basis during regular school hours.
* Administrators will also be available every day during regular school hours.
* Teachers have been asked to post their assignments on Google Classroom by 9:00 AM every day that school is in session.
* It is important that families continue to communicate with their child’s teacher on a regular basis and we have asked the teachers to do the same.
* In response to the anxiety caused by the current situation, we have asked our teachers to provide organized detailed instructions to their daily lessons. For example:
  + “This assignment goes in your folder.”
  + “This gets submitted through Google Classroom by \_\_\_\_ (a date).”
  + “This goes in your folder to bring back to school when we reopen.”

I believe that every experience affords us the opportunity to learn and grow and this is no exception. I often share with our staff the importance of making connections with our students and families. Through administrative visits in Google Classroom, we have seen the videos of teachers incorporating their families and pets into their lessons and we have seen the students comment about how “cute” a particular pet might be. Our current circumstances have made the metaphoric “open window” into the lives of our students’ teachers a reality and I am optimistic about the opportunity this has to strengthen and grow the aforementioned connections. Through these Google Classroom visits we have also seen that students are asking their teachers which special area class they will be having each day. This indicates to me that they are maintaining a schedule, which is an important skill to learn at times like this.

I will close by sharing how proud I am of the work all of our staff has done in preparation for our current circumstances. As previously stated, these are unprecedented times. We are committed to continuing to work with all of our families to always do what is in the best interest of our children. This is not an easy time, but I am confident that we will all learn and grow from this and we will emerge as a stronger and more unified school community as a result.

Respectfully,

C:\Users\pbretones\Desktop\signature.jpg

Pedro P. Bretones

Superintendent of Schools