

Dear staff,

A quick message today as we have done all we reasonably can to get ready for day 1 of week 1 in this new era. I wanted to say just a couple of things to you all as I wish you well next week.

To our teachers – please know that the templates we have created and have refined through this past week and that sketch out week 1 are designed as guides and not recipes. There is no concrete expectation that by any one particular day instructional design plans flow and are implemented. My messaging has been that the experts to answer “when” and “what” this looks like are the teachers and administrators who are designing and leading this work together. Please pace yourself and plan that this is going to be our new way for potentially several weeks. It’s a marathon, not a sprint. Most importantly, your students will want to hear from you. That connection is critical and then our learning details will follow in stages as you design them.

To our support staff. In an era of instruction in absence of learners, we know that many of you are worried about your role, your future, and even your job should this go on for months. You are the backbone of supports for our schools and their infrastructure and yet, without students, those supports are undefined and likely will remain undefined for some time. Know that you are at the top of every Q/A list I’ve seen over the past few weeks and your work is not underappreciated nor forgotten.

Finally, to all of you. Working remotely does not mean working alone. We have the tools to connect you, to allow collaboration and for you to work in teams with colleagues. It likely is a time, more than ever, that you need to reach out, connect and to work together or even to share your stories and to connect. If this is weeks or months, we need to somehow retain and support the relationships that we have in place.

Good luck, take care, I wish you well and our Board of Education and your district are here to support you through this.

Jordan