Dear Families,

Last week, we had informed families that we would not be providing new instruction during our COVID closure. Since then, the State of Washington (OSPI) has advised all schools to transition to distance learning opportunities for all students.

**What this means for your student**

Starting **Monday, March 30th**, Mount Baker Middle School teachers will be posting assignments to Google Classroom or other student friendly avenues. Assignments will be able to be done anytime during the week. Teachers will hold office hours via various means (google hangouts, zoom rooms, or email) to answer questions and provide support on lessons. Students will be expected to complete assignments. **At this time, the state is recommending pass/fail grading for high school during the closure. What this looks like for the middle school and standards based grading, we are still trying to figure out. What we do know, is our students are expected to connect with teachers to continue their learning.**

Students who do not submit work will be contacted by Mount Baker faculty and administration to ensure that they are receiving the technical support they need and to help troubleshoot any problems that have occurred. **Work will be assessed and utilized in determining students’ achievement of standards.**

We recognize that this is a unique situation. Students will still be expected to complete tasks and assignments and stay in sync with the class. Teachers will let students know when they are available in "real time" to answer questions (e.g. office hours will be posted on our school website).

While teachers are updating materials and regularly checking in and guiding students, learning is a shared responsibility. In the case of learning online, students may be thrown by the lack of structure that is found at school and need help in setting a daily learning schedule. This should include time online and offline, time to socialize and time to exercise or enjoy the outdoors.

We may not be in school, but... the learning doesn't stop! If online learning is difficult for your middle school student, the district is exploring paper/packet options. Our goal is for all students to continue learning during the school closure. At present, schools are slated to resume April 27th. This date is subject to change based on public health interests.

**Suggestions for Learning: How to Structure the Week**

Each of your student's MB teachers will assign work that should take between 1.5 - 2 hours to complete (per week). While students can complete this at any time, it is recommended that you develop a schedule for them to stay on top of their work. As an example:

**RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE:**

- Monday - Math & Elective
- Tuesday - Social Studies & Elective
- Wednesday - English & Elective
- Thursday - Science & Elective
- Friday - Review, Reflect, Recapture any missed work.

**What about Technology?**

Students in need of technology should contact MVSD District Office at **360-428-6262** to request Chromebooks and/or internet support. In the interim, students can access Google Classroom and complete assignments from their smartphones. While not ideal, students should plan on doing so until they secure the necessary hardware from the district.

**Stay Connected!**

Please check school email daily, look for new information on our school website, and please reach out to staff with questions.