

3/28/2020

Good Morning Pirate Families,

I hope this email finds everyone healthy and safe. With Spring Break coming to a close, I want to provide you with updates and information regarding our transition to distance learning. I'd like to share some "in person" [words with you via video](#) to start.

We want to assure you that we have been working hard to prepare our teachers for the switch to distance learning, as we anticipated site closures being extended beyond the initial 3 weeks announced on March 13th. You will find information on specific topics relating to distance learning below. Please review each of them, as some of them require input and feedback.

Distance Learning

The goal of distance learning is to continue to extend learning opportunities for our students beyond our campus. We want to keep students connected and engaged in critical thinking. This of course, follows the priority of staying safe and healthy, caring for each other's well-being and creating balance amidst the crisis we are all experiencing. We are all navigating new territory, again, and we will continue to work together to provide the best learning opportunities. We encourage feedback and questions as we walk through this process together as it helps us refine our process, clarity and communication.

Communication

There are a variety of ways we plan to communicate expectations and information pertaining to distance learning. Some of these are listed below:

1. Connection is VERY important in our community and we miss everyone SO much. Please expect Advisors to call home within the first week of distance learning to check in with students.
2. Advisors will continue to share weekly emails with information and announcements. Announcements will include the most up-to-date changes and notifications.
3. Advisory and content classes plan to share the week's learning experiences at the beginning of each week on their Google Classroom pages. Each class will also share basic checkpoints on an "at-a-glance" doc. This will be a one-stop location to look through some of the work expected of your child. This doc will be shared in the weekly email and on the [at-a-glance](#) page on the NP3 Middle website.
4. Families can expect all classes to use Google Classroom as their primary classroom platform. Teachers will also use a few different additional, supplemental platforms to share learning opportunities. All Google Classrooms (and Flipgrid) can be accessed using a code. These will be sent home in a separate Advisory communication for your keeping.
5. Many classes will be using live video options. This is a great way to extend connections from student to student and teacher to student. We're pretty excited about being able to connect in this way given our circumstances! Please note: we are very sensitive to the challenges, hardships and changes families are experiencing during this time and thus have great flexibility in learning at home. Live video options are just that; optional. They are not mandatory. If your child misses a live opportunity, they can participate in that share and/or learning in another way and/or can request live time at another time.

NP3 Middle Website & Resources

Re: DISTANCE LEARNING, TECHNOLOGY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, COUNSELING & MORE

The NP3 Middle website has been updated to provide information and resources specific to distance learning. Resources will continue to be added, so please check back regularly. We have added information important to the distance learning process and we plan to continue to add resources. Some of these include:

- *Distance Learning Page:* This page is dedicated to information on distance learning and resources families can use in addition to distance learning. Visit the [distance learning page here](#).

- *Teacher Availability:* Teachers have communicated their availability by sharing office hours on their teacher pages.
- *School Counselors:* Continuing to provide school counseling by our school counselors is hugely important, especially during this time. Inquiry and support from our school counselors can be shared by completing our counseling form on the [counseling support & inquiry page](#).
- *Special Education:* Information and resources on Special education services during distance learning is shared on both our site and NUSD's site. Visit the [special education and distance learning page](#) here.
- *Technology:* Our technology page is dedicated to resources and tutorials to support all things technology. It also serves the purpose of providing a communication tool, should you need support for learning about a technology tool and/or technology support for a borrowed device that isn't functioning as it should. Access to technology support via our request form is available on the [technology support & inquiry](#) page.

Both the distance learning and technology pages will be updated the most frequently with information and tutorials on navigating the virtual learning experiences.

Technology

Staff plans to use technology as the delivery and communication tool for distance learning. Should this be something that adversely affects your child's access to learning online, please share that information so that we can accommodate learning needs. Feel free to reach out to myself at lanzelc@natomasunified.org regarding this matter.

The MS site is still finalizing details for our chromebook check out process. We are hopeful chromebooks will be available the 2nd week of distance learning. We plan to update families who will be receiving one as information becomes available. In the meantime, for students who do not have access to a device, please view the information below regarding alternative distance learning materials.

- Alternative distance learning materials are available to all students. These materials will be made available as hard copies for pick up and drop off at the MS site. Please note: due to the differences between virtual tools and hard copies, the alternative distance learning materials will vary from virtual distance learning materials; however, they will still both reflect extended learning on the same topics. For planning and organization purposes, please respond to the [short questionnaire to RSVP](#) for pick up of materials for week 1 of distance learning. You do not need to complete the survey if you're planning to partake in virtual/online distance learning. In an effort to continue to be proactive in reducing the risk of COVID-19, we ask that families who have RSVP'd for pick up, do so at the allotted times per grade level. Pick times for week 1 of distance learning are as follows:
 - 6th Wed 4/1 9:00am-10:30am
 - 7th Wed 4/1 10:30am-12:00pm
 - 8th Wed 4/1 12:00pm-1:30pm
 - If you're unable to make the times listed, please contact me at lanzelc@natomasunified.org for further scheduling options.

Additionally, should families need access to Wi-Fi, Comcast is offering free Wi-Fi to families during the crisis period. More information regarding access to this service can be [found here](#) as well as our website.

Other Materials Pick Up

All 7th grade students are reading "Tangerine". Some families have their own copy of the book and some do not. Hard copies of "Tangerine" are available for pick up during the 7th grade pick up window on Wed 4/1 10:30-12:00pm. Pick up for "Tangerine" will be monitored by signing out the book number that was given to you.

Enrichment

The MS plans to continue enrichment opportunities and learning. Similar to the other classes, enrichment will be shared weekly. Something that's different is that it will be a learning opportunity that is school-wide and it will be shared through Advisory. Enrichment begins week 2 of distance learning.

Accountability / Attendance / Grades

Grading and attendance for distance learning instruction during the time of the COVID-19 crisis is different than what it has been. When we return to school, things will go back to the way they were. Until then, we will continue to work together to make the best of the current situation.

Superintendent Tony Thurmond (California State Superintendent) shared:

"Distance learning activities provided to students shall include enrichment, engagement, and review. The activities provided will not require summative assessments or grading. In addition, students will be held "harmless", and will not receive a lesser grade than their current grade as a result of engaging in Distance Learning during this unprecedented time. This aligns with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's recent statements that assessments should not be used during this time as a summative measure, but rather as a formative measure to gauge instruction and where students need support. "

At this time attendance will be determined by each teacher. For example, teachers may take attendance by checking to see if a student participates in weekly activities or engages in Google Classroom assignments. Due to the different ages and tech levels of students, teachers will make adjustments accordingly.

We continue to encourage you to communicate with your child's teachers. They will be understanding. Every family's situation is going to be different and we anticipate that.

I cannot share enough that we are here for you! If something isn't working for you, you have questions, or you're concerned about something, please reach out to your child's Advisor, myself at lanzelc@natomasunified.org, or Mrs. Edwards at tedwards@natomasunified.org. We are all learning as we go with distance learning and it's amidst a crisis so we are sensitive to each family's needs.

Stay safe and well.

Best,
Lindsay Anzelc
NP3 Middle Principal