August 5, 2020

Dear CECW Families,

Yesterday, the Larimer County Department of Public Health and Environment (LCDPHE) provided new guidance to schools regarding their recommendation for the start of our school year. As a result of this guidance, we have come to the difficult decision to transition to a mostly remote educational model until our Fall Break on October 14th. This is in line with the Phase 3 model presented in earlier correspondence with the majority of our students learning remotely while we continue to bring in targeted groups of students that need additional support.

We are seeing other districts around Colorado move to a fully remote model, but we do not feel that is in the best interest of our students and families. We have always prided ourselves in being leaders in education and feel that continuing to bring in targeted groups of students furthers that precedent. Our top priority is the safety of our community during these times, and we will continue to balance the guidelines of our local health department with the many factors at play. Details on the educational model we will be following until October 14th can be found below:

- Next Monday, August 10th, we will begin to bring in students in small groups to train them on remote learning.

**Monday, August 10**
- **7:50am – 12:40pm** New Student Schedule (in person)
  - 7:50 – 8:50 New 6th graders
  - 9:00 – 10:00 New 7th graders
  - 10:30 – 11:30 New 8th graders
  - 11:40 – 12:40 New 9th graders
- **1:00pm – 3:30pm** Returning Student Schedule Curb-Side Pick-Up

**Tuesday, August 11**
- **8:30am - 11:30am** – All 6th Grade Students
- **1pm - 3pm** – All 9th Grade Students

**Wednesday, August 12**
- **8:30am - 11:30am** – All 7th Grade Students
- **1pm - 3pm** - All 8th Grade

**Thursday, August 13**
- **8:30am - 11:30am** - Mixed Grades for families and any students that could not make their scheduled grade
  - Please sign up here for this group so that we continue to ensure social distancing

- Remote learning will begin on August 17th for all of our students and continue until October 14th; additional guidance on returning after Fall Break will be sent to families by October 5th

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Courses will be run synchronously with students logging onto Microsoft Teams for live classes at their normal class times on Monday-Friday.

Classes will be recorded and made available to students that are not able to attend during the assigned times.

Sign-ups will be sent to targeted groups of students (504/IEP, ELL and students that do not have adequate technology) for in-person support Monday through Friday.

Individual remote or in-person tutoring sign-ups will be made available when possible.

The new guidance coming from LCDPHE is based on prolonged delays in testing results that have made it difficult to provide the contact tracing needed to safely prevent an outbreak of COVID-19 in our schools. Without the ability to provide these test results quickly, LCDPHE cannot perform the testing, tracing, and isolation needed to protect our students, families, and staff.

"One of the biggest concerns we have in Larimer County and for Colorado is the delay in test results," said Tom Gonzales, Larimer County Public Health Director. "We are seeing a substantial delay in COVID-19 test results from all clinical labs, including the state lab. For contact tracing to be effective, we must obtain timely test results within 2-3 days. The way we prevent outbreaks in our schools is to test, trace and isolate. With cases continuing to rise, counties across the state will struggle to conduct timely contact tracing with this delay in results. This is a state-wide problem that has caused us to reassess our school reopening plans. We continue to meet regularly with our schools in order to provide guidance and consultation. It is our recommendation at this time for our schools to consider delaying starts until we have faster turnaround times on our test results."

While the latest guidance from county professionals has obligated us to move to mostly remote learning, we also understand that this decision is disappointing for many of our families. We will continue to work with health officials to bring in as many students for in person support as possible during the coming months. You can expect more details about this plan and targeted sign ups to be sent out early next week. You can also click here to join Ms. Rebecca Bolding and myself for a presentation of this information with an opportunity for Q&A on Thursday, August 6th from 6 to 7pm.

Sincerely,

Kelly Smith, Principal