March 19, 2020

The Adventure Begins.

My family has always loved adventure. We often choose to try something new before returning to something that we have already done – food, travel, routes to work, etc. I am keenly aware that not all individuals love adventure; however, we are here. We are embarking on an adventure that none of us have ever ventured on before.

The pre-trip planning is done. You know, reservations, routes, details, and more are complete. Teachers have mapped out lesson plans, learned new technology, worked together in learning how we will move forward for the sake of educating the children and families we are called to serve. What they have done this week is nothing short of amazing.

It’s time to rest in the knowledge that not everything will be perfect. It’s likely we have forgotten something. It’s also probable that the path we are moving forward with will have bumps, detours and adjustments. That’s okay.

It’s not the barriers or struggles we face that define us. It is how we react to them. It is how we respond with grace to students and teachers who are learning via a different model, parents and staff who are challenged with balancing supervision of their own personal children with their work responsibilities, families who will struggle with basic necessities during this time, and lots of other opportunities where we will have the choice to respond critically or with understanding. It also is the grace that we each give ourselves as we embark on this journey and make decisions for our own families.

This is our time to shine. We have a plan – a good one. We have prioritized our students. Our teachers have responded with a deep commitment to something that was not even on our minds a few months ago... even a few weeks ago. Our parents and families value the safety and education of their children. We live in a community where we can pull this off!

We also recognize that we are able to offer online instruction at this time thanks to voter support of our levies over the past six years. Levy funds allow us to provide devices for every student, as well as tech support, curriculum and training for teachers. Thank you.

Here are some reminders before I sign off:

Should you need to talk to someone over spring break about enrollment or district programs, call (208) 468-4600 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have questions about the COVID-19 virus, Saint Alphonsus Health Systems has established a COVID-19 triage phone line at (208) 302-2683. Nurses will answer questions about symptoms, screening locations, risk factors, prevention and more from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
If you choose to travel within the United States, please refer to the CDC website for areas that are currently labeled as having community transmission. This data is changing rapidly, so please refer to this before you travel, during your travel, and after you return from travel. The following states are currently identified as having areas of concern: California, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington and Wyoming.

Specific counties within these states are listed as areas of concern regarding community transmission of the virus. If you choose to travel to one of these counties, please understand that you will be asked to follow the CDC self-quarantine recommendations noted above.

If you come into close contact with anyone who is returning from areas of concern within or outside of the United States, the CDC website offers information about how to conduct a risk assessment and the steps to take in your home to protect yourself and the community. 

Thank you for walking through this with us!

Let the Adventure Begin!

Dr. Paula Kellerc
Superintendent, Nampa School District