April 17, 2020

Dear Nampa School District parents/guardians:

Three days in a row! Our apologies for the third email this week – but there are new developments and we are committed to keeping you informed and updated!

**Grading Update**

Yesterday, we shared the district's direction for grading for the remainder of the year. There were a lot of discussions and a lot of paths we could have chosen. The final decision included input from parents, teachers and students. Many parents and students reported feeling additional stress related to the unknown of how online education works, the amount of workload being assigned, and managing their mental wellness during this time. In addition, we are still tracking down some students who have not yet had the opportunity to benefit from the learning we are providing online. Please let me also remind you of the following guiding principles:

1. Leaning into learning doesn't always have to be motivated by a grade or GPA.
2. Going to school is always much more than a grade – the emotional and social aspects for students during this time are significantly important.
3. Parents and students can work together to encourage our students to engage each day. Learning has not stopped. As I mentioned yesterday, there are still skills to be learned this year. There is still information to be learned that will assist in taking AP and concurrent credit classes. If we move forward now, students will be better positioned in the fall.

One of our hopes in setting this grading policy was to take the grades/marks out of the learning equation and to take a stressor off the table for teachers and students so that we all can lean into risk-free learning. Please join us in encouraging your student to continue his/her education with us this year! Teachers are still working hard to deliver quality lessons.

**Update from IHSSA**

The IHSSA board met this morning and issued this statement. “It is with sadness and regret that the Idaho High School Activities Association Board of Directors announces that all spring sport and activity seasons and all state tournaments are cancelled. This decision was based on guidelines established by Governor Little, the Idaho State Board of Education, as well as feedback from schools and districts throughout the state.”

This means that the NSD spring activities and athletic season is officially cancelled. We realize that this is incredibly disappointing to both students and coaches. The following IHSAA rules are in place through May 16:

1. In-person practices, meetings, chalk talks, gatherings, games or contests of any kind are **NOT** allowed for any IHSAA-sanctioned sports/activities.
2. Our school facilities may NOT be used for IHSAA-sanctioned sports/activities.
3. Spring sport athletes must adhere to IHSAA Rule 8-11 regarding outside competition. Please check with your coach/advisor if you are uncertain what this means.

Responding to the Parent Survey

Once again we thank you for providing your feedback to us in the parent survey. There was a strong message that included feelings of frustration related to student work load, steep learning curves, and family balance. To respond to this feedback, we will begin to transition to a more consistent and regular schedule, focusing on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On these days, teachers will continue to present new material, offer feedback, connect with students via internet, and outline assignments for students. For high school students, Mondays and Thursdays will focus on "A Day" classes. Tuesdays and Fridays will focus on "B Day" classes. Wednesdays will be a work day for students and teachers.

Students and families can use this time to catch up, take a small break, regroup and prepare for the remainder of the week. Staff will use Wednesdays to contact students and families if needed, set appointments, hold internal meetings, assess student learning, provide feedback to students, join in professional learning groups, plan instruction, work with co-teachers, paraprofessionals and other colleagues, and more.

There could be a transition time for our elementary schools that may already have planned for this coming Wednesday. Check in with your teacher. One exception to this pattern will be our special education classes and support. Our services will continue as scheduled in most cases. Your teacher will connect with you if there are changes in the delivery.

As we have shared in the past, this is our first time doing this as a whole district. We promised there would be corrections and updates. We hope that these changes will strengthen our overall programming and will meet the needs of families who responded to the survey.

Once again, thank you for your support and patience at this time.

See you Monday!

Paula Kellerer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Nampa School District