

Dear Rundlett Middle School Families,

We hope this email finds you all enjoying a very unique summer. We are reaching out this evening to give you an update on our plans for reopening for the coming school year. Things have been changing and we wanted to make sure we had the right information before reaching out to you. This is our first installment of ***The Great Learning Challenge of 2020 - 2.0 Weekly Update.***

Last March, as you remember, we made a rapid switch to *remote* learning. As we look back, I think it would be better to say that we made a switch to *emergency* learning. We began with what was supposed to be two weeks out of school and that stretched to the remainder of the year. Nobody could have predicted this! We know that results were mixed and that students had different experiences. Based on survey results and other feedback, some students were more successful than others. We know we have work to do.

Now that the school board has made the decision to go *remote* to start the year, we have been working diligently to improve the virtual learning experience for our students. Here are some of the changes that we are planning:

- Advisory - Students will be expected to attend their advisory class each morning at 8:30. This is important because we know that a strong connection with at least one adult helps students with their overall success in school (especially during a pandemic). We will be incorporating a variety of lessons during this time that will include social-emotional learning, as well as study habits and goal setting. Attendance will also be taken at this time.
- Daily Schedule (Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday) - Students will follow their daily schedule and will receive live instruction for at least the first 30 minutes of each core and exploratory class. The remainder of the class may be working in virtual small groups, applying their learning independently, engaging in independent new learning, or receiving specialized services. Attendance will also be taken at the start of each class. Students should expect a range of 1 ½ to 2 ½ hours of ( depending on grade level) of synchronous, live, face-to-face time with their teachers each day.
- Wednesdays - Students will attend their advisory, just like the other days. They will then have the opportunity to receive additional help, as needed, and/or work independently or with a group online. Teachers will offer “office hours” on these days.
- Lunch/Breaks - It is not good for students to be sitting all day, so students will be encouraged to take breaks, run around their house and have a good lunch *away from a screen!*

- Special Education - We have designed a schedule that allows for specialized instruction to take place in accordance with each student's I.E.P. without being pulled out of a class or activity. We are excited about this schedule change. If your child has an I.E.P., you can be sure that their case manager will reach out to you as the school year begins.
- School Counseling - Our school counselors plan to be as busy as ever - it just might look a bit different. Students will still be able to access their school counselor, participate in groups, etc.
- Technology - Students will, once again, receive a Chromebook. We will be using Google Classroom and Zoom across the school. Teachers in different content areas may use other applications, too.

### ***What's next?***

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to give you updated information as well as resources. In next week's update, we will share each grade level's schedule and let you know what school supplies you'll be needing. We'll also let you know what forms you may need and when we will be rolling out Chromebooks for students.

While this is certainly not "school as usual", we are hoping to provide your child with a robust and engaging educational experience.

Take care,

Paulette