



Mrs. Diane Steele, Principal

Mr. Neal Campbell, Vice Principal

March 30, 2020

Dear Ferris Parents:

Re: Learning in a new way-- What's Next?

We have been thinking of our Ferris families, and we thank you for your patience as we work busily behind the scenes to get up and running in an entirely new way. We know that for many of you there have been cancelled holidays, missed family gatherings, and unexpected changes to daily routines. Despite these developments, we hope you have been able to spend time as a family baking, playing games, getting outside, reading good books, exploring online and more.

As you are aware, with the suspension of in-class instruction, how we do our work is going to be very different for the next while, and although we don't yet have all the answers, we are committed to working together to find answers. Mr. Campbell and I are reaching out to all of our staff by phone today and tomorrow, and beginning to answer the many questions they have with the help of our senior team and Learning Services Team. What an amazing group of educators we have at Ferris.

What's Next? Ferris teachers will reach out to all of our families—Expect a communication from your child's teacher this week. **The first communication from teachers will mostly be for the purpose of reconnecting.** To do this, some teachers may use the eportfolio platform, others may send a group email letting you know they will call, others may just start phoning. They miss their students, and are eager to check in with them. Children are resilient, but adult responses and attitudes influence how they interpret their world. We aim to provide a calm and reassuring presence during this time and a support for our students and parents.

Teachers are getting information at the end of today about the **Framework for Continuity of Learning** established by the Richmond School District, and with that guidance, will continue to plan and design learning opportunities for the remainder of the week. This means new ways to work together online, new resources they might need, new tools to use, and new ways to support our students. Please keep in mind this process will take some time and care, and your patience is appreciated. **They will be working to get plans in place by next Wednesday.**

We are grateful to be part of a caring community, and we know we will manage the uncertainty and challenges of the future together. Our staff are a dedicated group of professionals—also dealing with their own family circumstances, but expressing care and concern for their students.

Mr. Campbell and I miss the morning and after school opportunities to greet our parents and students, and we miss the positive energy of the students and staff in the school. We are also mindful that some of our families may have experienced lay-offs of one or more parent, and this may cause extra financial stressors beyond caring for children and considering their education. We invite you to call Mrs. Steele for a confidential conversation if your circumstances are such that you are having worries about feeding your family or seek assistance for special or unique circumstances that are particularly difficult for your family. We can be reached at the school.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Steele, Principal

Mr. Campbell, Vice Principal