



**Minnetonka Public Schools**  
Innovate. Inspire. Excel.



Dear Minnetonka Families:

I know you have all had a complicated spring as we have dealt with the Coronavirus crisis, job losses, business closings, school closing, the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the unrest that has followed. These events have challenged all of you. I hope you and your family have come together during this time to find peace and an even stronger sense of commitment to your lives in this changing environment. If you have had illnesses or death in your family or if you have lost your job or your business, I offer you my support and encouragement.

We are nearing the close of the 2019-20 school year. It will officially end next Tuesday, June 9th, two hours before the normal ending time. It will be the end to a year that we will long remember. I extend my deepest appreciation to each parent who has worked with the teachers of your children to make this unusual and unexpected situation work as well as possible. We know this has not been easy for students or parents. We have continued our full commitment to your child's success and academic growth. We have worked with you to assure the social growth and emotional health of your child. If you have suggestions for improving the situation in the fall, we welcome them.

I know you are appreciative of the teachers, social workers, counselors, para-professionals and administrators who have provided the best possible learning environment for your child. It has not been easy for them either, but they have remained deeply committed to your child.

We will continue our commitment to your child to assure that they finish their classes strong and with good grades. If it takes more time this summer to finish some expectations, we will work with your child to make it successful. We are determining if some students should have a structured class to catch up on their learning before fall.

What will the fall session of school look like? We will not know that final answer until the Governor decides in July. He has promised to decide by July 31. The Minnesota Department of Education has indicated that the structure of school could be either a continuation of what we have been doing this spring or what they call a hybrid model. That hybrid model would have one day in school followed by a day in e-learning, or it could be

two days in schools followed by a day of e-learning. That cycle would then be repeated throughout the fall. It could be modified based on the students' ages and ability to function with e-learning. We would need to accommodate students whose parents do not want them exposed to other students at school. While in school, classes would be limited to nine students with a teacher, and there would be social distancing and other measures in place all of the time. Students might need to eat lunch in their classrooms. Extensive cleaning of surfaces would occur throughout the day. Transportation of students would have to look very different in order to achieve the appropriate social distancing. There needs to be more guidance on how we can do various sports and other activities.

We will be creating several options to these concepts in case the Governor allows more flexibility. We will share those options with parents and students as we get into July. We will continue to assure that all students have access to appropriate devices for learning remotely, as that model of learning will be present to some degree for several months. We will notify parents of the plan as soon as we know what limitations we will have in meeting students' needs.

Thanks, again, for your support and patience. I hope you and your family have a great summer.

Dennis L. Peterson  
Superintendent of Schools