April 9, 2020

Dear Elementary Families,

Thank you for your words of encouragement and warm messages during this time away from our school buildings. Many of you have embraced our teachers’ newly developed online learning opportunities. We are excited to hear about connections through Google Meet and Google Classroom. After loaning almost 60 chromebooks this week, we are excited to reach even more students! We continue to look for the silver lining through this experience and are amazed at all that our families are embracing. We want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we develop new ways of connecting with students.

Throughout this extended closure (recently adjusted to a statewide return of April 29th), our goal is to ensure students continue learning, and most importantly continue to feel cared for and connected to school as much as possible. While our original instructional focus was skill and content review, we realize that with the extended closure timeline and uncertainty regarding an exact return to onsite classes, this requires a shift into exploring new content. To help, we have developed a presentation providing clarity about reasonable expectations for students, families, and teachers. In this presentation, you will find guidelines for curriculum, instruction, time spent learning, grading practices, and trimester 3 report cards. We anticipate that elementary teachers will be able to plan and align their practices with these guidelines and begin new content instruction on April 20th.

At the elementary level, we realize that our parents are the true heroes. We know that you are guiding your children through learning and the use of technology. We know that many of you have developed schedules for your children to follow, to keep a routine at home, all while balancing your own work and younger/older siblings. Thank you for all that you are doing! This is a true partnership and please know that we are here to help. For those who are unable to access the internet, our teachers will continue to provide hard copies and guidance for returning materials so they are aware of student progress.

Please reach out to us for help in the following areas:

- meal delivery opportunities (esloan@greenwichcsd.org)
- Special Education and ENL support (trescott@greenwichcsd.org)
- child care for essential health care workers and first responders (dsmith@greenwichcsd.org)
- all other questions (jmueller@greenwichcsd.org)

We are thinking of you and missing our students!

Sincerely,

Jennie Mueller