



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

400 Main Street
New Eagle, PA 15067

Randall S. Skrinjorich
Director of Operations and Financial Services
Acting Superintendent of Schools

(724) 258-9329
FAX (724) 258-5363

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Beginning Wednesday, April 1st, our teachers will be providing “planned instruction” online to our students. We know that many of you have been engaging with teachers and administrators in enrichment and review activities and have been looking forward to (and patiently awaiting) the beginning of instruction of new material, online. Along with the beginning of “planned instruction” we will begin taking attendance and providing work that will be counted toward student promotion and grade level advancement for next year.

Our teachers have been participating in training this week and will do so again on Monday and Tuesday as we work to transition our curriculum and instructional models so that they can be delivered virtually/online. They are doing an incredible job, with the support of an amazing group of administrators who are working to guide and assist in supporting the efforts. All of this has been occurring as our staff, like many of you who are working from home, are also trying to care for their own families. A common theme that we have heard during this time is how much our administrators and teachers miss our students.

Please see below as we approach April 1st:

- As we move to planned instruction on Wednesday, April 1st, assessments and assignments will be graded with leniency and understanding during this transition.
- Our teachers have Google classrooms prepared in which they will be able to meet virtually/online with students. Our administrators and teachers will be providing information to students and families on how to access those classrooms, on Tuesday.
- Our Special Education teachers, as well as our related service providers, are also preparing to meet students virtually and provide specially designed instruction. Those meetings will also occur through online resources.
- Elementary teachers will be providing instruction in their Google classrooms. Teachers will record their video lessons so that the lessons can be viewed again for any student who may need to refer to the lesson again at a time that is manageable for you. Because of privacy concerns, we will not be recording any Zoom calls that include student video and audio. We recognize there is a significant difference between elementary and secondary virtual/online learning and reasonable expectations. We recognize that younger students may need more assistance from parents and adult caregivers (who may be busy caring for other children and trying to work from home). We will be flexible and patient during this time and appreciate your flexibility and patience with us, as we all navigate through this new experience together.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

- Our middle and high school students are more familiar with retrieving and posting assignments on virtual sources. This will be the primary way to access and submit assignments, as well as take attendance. Any family that is still working on access should contact their principal via telephone so that we can provide directions on the alternate means for learning and assignment completion while internet access is arranged. If you do not have access, or know of someone that does not please have them contact their principal so that we can provide assistance.
- If your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out to their teacher, principal, or school counselor. If you have a problem with technology and need tech help, you can contact our help desk at (724) 997-5230 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. (times may vary slightly due to staff availability). You can also email our helpdesk at rsdhelpdesk@ringgold.org and be sure visit our website, www.ringgold.org, for the latest updates. We ask for your patience during this time as our help desk is servicing teachers, students, and parents. We also encourage you to reach out to your tech-savvy relatives, friends and neighbors who might also be able to assist while you wait for the helpdesk response. Again, we are all in this together!
- We are working to deploy hundreds of Chromebooks to families this coming week, while installing other virtual tools to increase and support communication between school and home. Please be patient as work through this difficult task as efficiently as possible. We are considering options for families that do not have transportation to be at the Middle School. Distribution information will be provided as we move forward. Please make every effort to come to the Middle School for distribution as this is the safest procedure possible for families and staff while we are under the shelter in place order. We thank the Board of School Directors for approving the purchase of these resources to serve our students.
- We are also working to assist families who are working to obtain internet connectivity so that all students will be able to engage virtually with their teachers and classmates.
- We realize that there will be many questions as we transition to virtual/online learning this week. We have many questions ourselves and we are not alone! I have been on calls with other Superintendents in our county and beyond and we are all working together to figure this out. Students, teachers and administrators across the Commonwealth and across the Nation are all stepping into a virtual learning world.

We promise to do our very best to keep students excited about school and excited about learning. Knowing our staff and community like I do, I am confident that we will emerge from this experience as a stronger Ringgold School District.