



# RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Ringgold School District Family,

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as our School District works energetically to make the very quick shift from providing traditional learning to a virtual/online learning model. Moving a district the size of ours to a virtual platform in such a short time period has been an enormous challenge and I want to thank our Technology Department as well as our entire staff. Many have been working around the clock to garner and prepare resources so that our students could return to school virtually this week. Be assured everyone has been working diligently on behalf of our students.

As was communicated yesterday, beginning Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, our teachers will be returning to provide virtual/online instruction to our students. Listed below is additional information regarding our next steps:

- We thank those who have completed the technology access survey. We will begin distributing Chromebooks at Ringgold Middle School between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday for grades 5-8 and Tuesday for grades K-4. This is an initial distribution and while it will put computers in the hands of many of the families who requested them, it is not our only planned distribution. We thank those families who have communicated extenuating circumstances that will prevent them from attending the initial distribution and want to assure you that we will be providing additional information tomorrow.
- While the Board of Directors has taken swift action to ensure the purchase and acquisition of Chromebooks for students, the District is also working closely with the Intermediate Unit and other sources to assist families who currently do not have internet access, in obtaining it. The District is making provisions by which students who currently do not have internet access can still participate in their education. We will be communicating directly with those families to provide more details.
- We recognize that transitioning from a traditional educational delivery to a virtual/online platform will take great cooperation and patience on all of our parts. While our educational mission and objectives remain the same, there are differences between a traditional brick and mortar delivery of education and a virtual/online delivery of education. To that extent, we have prepared guidance on how those differences impact the expectation for students. To view our student expectations/guidance documents click on the links below:
  - [Elementary Student Expectations/Guidance](#)
  - [Middle School Student Expectations/Guidance](#)
  - [Senior High School Student Expectations/Guidance](#)

*~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~*

- Our teachers have Google classrooms prepared in which they will be able to meet virtually/online with students. Our administrators and teachers will be double checking access to the classrooms, making any needed updates and we will then provide families with information on how to access those classrooms on Tuesday afternoon.
- Our Special Education teachers, as well as our related service providers, are also preparing to meet students virtually and provide specially designed instruction. Special Education teachers also have Google classrooms and will be providing specially designed instruction and support to students. We will also be sending out a separate notice to parents of students who are receiving special education services.
- As communicated yesterday, we realize that there will be many questions as we transition to virtual/online learning this week. Each day we are working through new questions and thanks to our great teachers and administrators, we continue to find solutions that allow us to move forward. We appreciate your patience and are grateful for the support that you continue to extend.

This will undoubtedly be a busy week as we attempt to coordinate an effort that has not only impacted our school, but our entire staff, our entire community and the entire Commonwealth. Despite the challenges, I remain encouraged by the daily acts of courage and kindness that are being displayed. It is a true testament to the strength of our community and our School District and reminds me of a quote by Anna Sewall, "It is good people who make good places". This is truly the case in the Ringgold School District.

Please stay tuned for more information. I will continue to provide information on our planning efforts and we will continue to do our very best to address your needs as timely as possible in the midst of this pandemic. Remember, we are in this together and we will continue to work together to deliver the very best possible education we can provide during this time.