November Newsletter from Principal Cooper

First, happy Veteran’s Day to all of the reservist, active duty and retired military members!

As we enter remote learning, I ask that we all give grace during this process. These times are truly unprecedented, and we have no template to follow for the best way forward. I can attest to the incredible amount of time and energy that every staff member has put toward making this experience as best as possible. The first week of remote learning will be a time for everyone to practice and become more familiar with the virtual space. We welcome feedback and strive to be responsive to the needs of our community.

As a community, we worked collaboratively to keep our staff, students, and community safe, and for that I thank you. Dr. Siegfried, our CCSD Superintendent, announced Thursday that CCSD will transition to full remote learning for all students currently enrolled in in-person learning. Elementary students will have their last day of in-Person learning on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Teachers will have Thursday and Friday to prepare, and remote learning will start Monday, Nov. 16. If you did not read his communication from Thursday, you may access it by clicking here.

I also ask that we continue to work collaboratively to navigate a school year during a pandemic. While we have been providing in person learning, our teachers have also been preparing for the possibility of remote learning. This includes engaging in professional development related to online instruction and developing curriculum to support remote learning. I’d like to use this opportunity to explain more about what remote learning will look like for elementary aged students.

Synchronous Learning
While remote instruction cannot replace the in-person experiences we provide for our students, CCSD has developed a consistent plan where our classroom teachers will provide direct instruction daily, which will take place during the synchronous learning block. Students will be expected to engage daily and attendance will be taken during this time. Synchronous learning is provided from 8:00-11:00am for Kindergarten through 2nd graders, and from 12:00-3:00pm for 3rd through 5th graders. There are two schedule “Brain Breaks” during the synchronous learning block. This is a time for students to step away from their device, get a drink or snack, use the restroom and/or take a quick movement break. If you know your child will not be in attendance, please call the attendance line 720-554-3637. Below you will find more specific information about the synchronous blocks for your children. All elementary
students will follow a Yellow (A) and Blue Day (B) schedule, which impacts the content covered each day. Synchronous and asynchronous times are the same regardless of the day. Our English Language and Gifted and Talented teachers will continue to co-teach with grade level teachers during the synchronous block. All synchronous learning will be provided via ZOOM, MS TEAMS. These sessions will not be recorded, so your child's attendance is important. Please watch for meeting link information from your child's teachers. If you have specific questions about your child's synchronous block, please reach out to your child's teacher.

**Asynchronous Learning**
In addition, students will engage in daily asynchronous learning, to include extensions and activities that students can access as they progress through the learning. Asynchronous learning takes place between 11:00am-1:45pm for Kindergarten through 2nd graders, and from 9:15am-12pm for 3rd through 5th graders. Asynchronous learning will also include scheduled intervention, scheduled instructional support (ie. 1:1 and/or small groups) and Special Services Providers.

**Lunch/Recess**
K-2nd grade teachers will have lunch between 11:00-11:30 and our 3rd-5th grade teachers will have lunch from 11:30-12:00. We encourage our students to take a lunch/recess break sometime during their asynchronous time. Please note that CCSD Food and Nutrition Services will provide free breakfast and lunch at remote locations. View the schedule and locations here: [https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/FreeMeals](https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/FreeMeals).

**Grading**
Teachers will be grading during remote learning. Remember, grading is intended to measure performance/proficiency of the Colorado Academic Standards, and will be based on a full body of evidence. If you have questions about your child's performance/proficiency as it relates to the standards, please reach out to your child's teacher.

**Learning Management Systems**
A Learning Management System (LMS) is a central hub for communicating with parents and students, collaborating, facilitating and monitoring student learning and for assessing student performance. In the Spring, we learned that one of the greatest challenges for students, parents and staff in regards to remote learning was the inconsistency in these digital platforms. In addition, we want to make sure each child has access to a device. If your child is in need of a device for remote learning, please contact me (ucooper@cherrycreekschools.)

At High Plains Elementary, most K through 2nd grade will use SeeSaw and Zoom their LMS, and most 3rd through 5th grade will use Schoology and Zoom as their LMS. Both of these LMS's can be accessed through [my.cherrycreekschools.org](http://my.cherrycreekschools.org). Be sure your child logs into [my.cherrycreekschools.org](http://my.cherrycreekschools.org) using their school account. Music, PE, Art and Technology will also flow through their classroom's LMS. If your child does not have their log in information, please contact your child's teacher.

**From Nurse Renee**
While Renee will not be in the building, she is reachable via email at rshykind@cherrycreekschools.org.

**Available Support During Remote**
CCSD has several supports available to families and students. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the following, and if you have questions, please call Sue Fenner at the front office (720-554-3601). She will try and swiftly get answers your questions. Together, we want this transition to be successful and the learning to be meaningful.
Instructional Technology: CCSD Parent Technology Resources Tile
To access this resource, log into Schoology as a CCSD parent, by logging into http://my.cherrycreekschools.org using the same email address you used for Parent Forms. You will not be able to log in using the "Login" option on the regular Schoology page or the Log In button above. If you are having any troubles, again call Sue Fenner at 720-554-3601; or email sfenner@cherrycreekschools.org.

- Technical assistance is available between 8am and 4pm, M-F, please complete our Student Device Support form.

- If you or your children need assistance with assignments or digital learning in general, please contact your teacher directly or email ccsdtech@cherrycreekschools.org.

Expectations
Below we have provided an overview of expectations for our teachers, students and parents. We know that if we work collaboratively, this transition will be smooth and the learning will be meaningful. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases and quarantines during remote learning. If your child's remote learning experience is impacted, you will be notified. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Take care of yourselves and each other!

Thank you,
Unique Cooper
Principal