



Jeannette Rankin Elementary

5150 Bigfork Rd., Missoula, Montana 59803

406-542-4010

3/26/2020

Dear Wonderful Structured Learning Program Parents,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter and/or watch my video about how we are working to continue to engage our students. We know that these are uncharted waters for all of us and there are many factors outside of our control, but I would like you all to continue considering me a partner and a resource. I am ever committed to the academic and social/emotional development of your amazing children, all of whom I miss deeply. All my students are never far from the forefront of my mind and heart.

Please know that all steps I am taking are within the directives and guidance given to me by the MCPS Department of Special Education and the Department of Teaching and Learning. These departments are working hard to develop plans and systems to make sure that all students are receiving quality educational resources that can be completed at home. Please visit <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/15143> for more information from Teaching and Learning and to access the wealth of resources presented there.

As directed by the Department of Special Education, my online platform will be Google Classroom, which many of the general education teachers are using as well. You may need to assist your child in accessing this web page for a couple of days before they get the hang of it. I have no doubt that by the end of the first week they will be able to log on and access this page independently. All students will have tasks to complete by both their general education teacher (when appropriate) and by me. As the most powerful factor in the success of SLP is the strong relationships between students and their adult support staff, all para-educators will also be involved, whether reading a story, leading an art project, or conducting a small mini-lesson. To continue fostering these amazing relationships my dedicated para-educators and myself are offering weekly phone call or google hangout conversations. If this is something you would be interested in, please indicate that on the google form linking in the email.

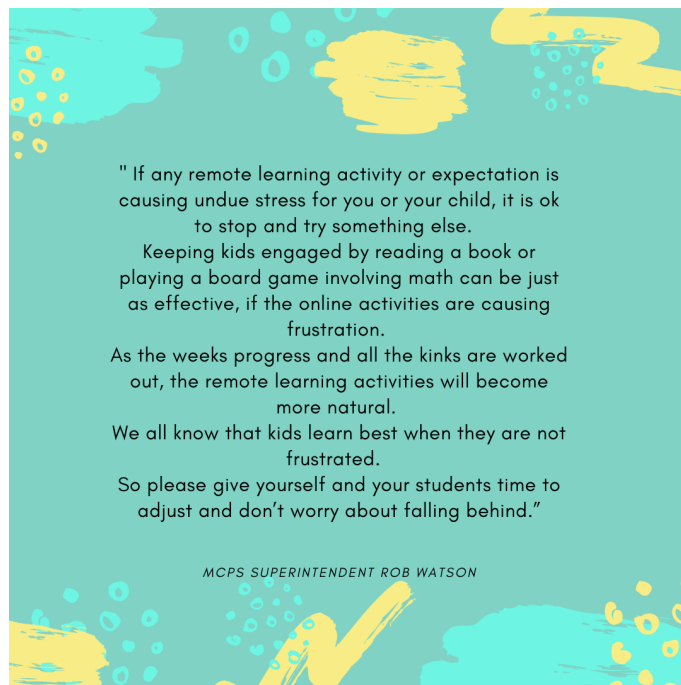
Once you have accessed google classroom with your student, please also watch the family video posted there. This is for both parents and students. At this time, per the direction of the Department of Special Education, all academic resources provided by me will be supplementary and not goal based. That will hopefully change in the coming weeks as I am dedicated to the continued growth of targeted skills. I urge you to reference the copy of your child's IEP I sent home after your child's last IEP meeting and think about ways you can support this at home. I will have more information and resources coming out soon about goals once I am given the go-ahead by the Department of Special Education.

CSCT will continue, but in different roles. Kevin Watson is moving to his role as an Outpatient Clinical Therapist and Trevor Stoos is now a case manager. These roles allow them to serve their clients more efficiently over the next weeks. They will be in touch soon if you have not already heard from them. Please use them as a resource and support as well. They are very dedicated to continuing their positive and supportive relationships with our students.

At this time, all scheduled IEP and Evaluation meetings are postponed. There may be options to conduct these meetings using a virtual platform or phone if closures extend beyond April 10th. Regular communication between parents and myself is paramount to the success of continued engagement. I will be sending out information on Monday mornings to the confirmed emails I have for all parents. This will give updates and outline plans for the upcoming week. For non-emergency/ non- time sensitive communication please use my email (kjshipp@mcpsmt.org) and I will answer any questions/concerns you have within 24 hours. If it is an emergency, feel free to contact me through my cell phone. If I can not answer right away, I will get back to you ASAP.

As you are cruising around the new Google Classroom platform you will see a new name and face. Maria Ahnen will be joining us as my university teacher candidate. I am thrilled to add her passion and skills to the mix. She has a wealth of experience working with students with unique behavioral needs and is very excited to be a part of JRE SLP. Please watch her introduction video which will be on Google Classroom on Monday, along with greetings from all of the SLP support staff.

In closing, here is a statement from the MCPS Superintendent, Rob Watson:



In Love and Health,

Kelly Shipp, M.ED.

Special Educator

Jeannette Rankin Elementary

kjshipp@mcps.k12.mt.us

