

March 30, 2020

Dear Polaris Families -



In these unusual and rapidly changing times, we understand that both parents and students are challenged by the school closure, the need to hunker down, and all of the new demands placed on you. We want you to know that our first priority is your family's health and wellness. We are all learning and navigating this new situation together, and we want to help make this a positive experience for all of our students and families. Your students should be spending the amount of time on school work that fits your current schedule. The staff at Polaris is here to support you. We are all in this together, even though we are apart.

Teachers are working diligently to create valuable learning experiences for your children. We believe that it is important to provide as much consistency as possible during this time. To help ensure we provide continued learning opportunities for students and to help keep consistency, teachers will be using electronic platforms that students are familiar with such as Google class and Google docs.

Beginning Tuesday, March 31, students will begin e-learning in their core classes and family groups. Elective classes such as PE, Art, Drama, Music, and Spanish will begin April 13. Teachers will be developing tasks, experiences, or project-based learning/activity-based learning activities to best meet the unique needs of their classes. Here's what you can expect:

- Weekly requirements will be posted through Google classroom each Monday morning by 9:00 a.m.
- There will be opportunities for small group work/discussion groups/individual support. This will be determined by each teacher.
- Assignments, assessments/quizzes, and reflections will be due on Sunday.
- Elective teachers will provide supplemental resources until April 13.

Our current plan at Polaris for the remainder of the semester is that formal grading will be limited to high school course work that is designed to earn credit for their transcript. Students will earn graded semester credits for second semester classes based on assignments from 3rd and 4th quarters. Fourth quarter remote learning will provide an opportunity to improve understanding, skills, and a chance to build upon student's 3rd quarter progress grades. If you are in middle school but taking a high school course, you may be in a course that requires grades.

Middle school courses will have supplemental assignments and activities that are monitored and feedback will be provided to students and parents. At the end of the year, the academic record will reflect the final marks from the third quarter, and no fourth quarter marks will be recorded.

Special Education staff will be coordinating with teachers and families to support students in continuing to strive towards their goals.

Teachers will be available during set office hours. These office hours are an opportunity for students and families to check in to ask questions about assignments, request help in learning skills or concepts, and get feedback on ongoing work. We encourage you to make a copy of this schedule to best take advantage of this time. You should expect to have a check-in weekly.

Given current CDC guidelines and our new distance delivery model of instruction, our spring intensives have been cancelled. The teachers and I know that these are high-interest, high-engagement activities, and we are looking forward to the fall when we can all occupy the same learning spaces again!

Information, resources, and links to classes can be found on our web page using the Quick Link to our Remote Learning Portal. <https://www.asdk12.org/polarisk12>

If your individual circumstances pose hardship in accessing these learning opportunities, please communicate with your child's teacher, advisor, and/or counselor, and let us know how we can best support your child.

We are committed to providing a positive, engaging educational experience so that students can continue to learn and strive towards success in life. We look forward to continuing to work with your child and family.

Carol Bartholomew

Principal, Polaris K-12 School