March 26, 2020

Hello Again Cotopaxi Families:

**Weekly Message:** In an effort to keep all of our students and parents updated with the most current information and actions made by the District, I will post this weekly message for you. Our first lines of communication will continue to remain our “all call” telephone, text and email system, however additional information is beneficial. Teachers and staff have been hard at work behind the scenes in preparation for virtual school instruction and student educational materials in order to adapt to the necessary upcoming changes in school instruction. Although we are physically separated at this time, our goal is to remain connected as a community and provide resources whenever possible.

**Meal Delivery:** To this end, and perhaps something on everyone’s mind, *Cotopaxi School District intends to continue providing weekly meal distributions throughout this situation.* We have received authority as a “critical government function” to do so. We know this is an important support for our community and will do our best to meet your needs. As a reminder, if you are not able to make one of our scheduled delivery points: the Howard Volunteer Fire Department, the Coaldale Community Building, the Cotopaxi School or at the Y, please contact us by email to either dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org or keckelberry@cotopaxire3.org. Our next delivery date is scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020 from 5pm to 7 pm. Mrs. Devin Gulliford and her team have been amazing in their efforts to secure food and organize our delivery to you. We cannot thank them enough!

**‘Stay at Home’ Executive Order issued by Governor Polis:** We have posted to our website and will send out Governor Polis’ Executive Order D 2020 017, Amended Public Health Order 20-24, and a Frequently Asked Question document all dated March 25, 2020 as points of reference for everyone. Although it is a priority to remain at home, numerous situations do allow for travel or require job responsibilities to continue. Please take the opportunity to read through these documents.

**School Closure Information:** Based upon Executive Orders from Governor Polis, Cotopaxi Fremont RE-3 has suspended all in-person instruction through *April 17, 2020 (as we shared in our earlier weekly update).* Although this situation evolves daily, at this time, we will continue to work under the assumption that we will return to in person campus instruction on April 20, 2020. This timeline, however, can and may be extended beyond April 17th based upon guidelines issued from Governor Polis or our local health department and agencies. Again, we will continue to provide to you updates as soon as they become available through our “all call” system.

**Student Instruction during school closure:** As we approach *March 30, 2020,* our teachers and staff have and/or will be reaching out to each of you. First, to check in and make sure you are all doing well and second, to guide you through what the next few weeks will look like for your child in terms of school supported instruction. We will take it one step at a time. We know this can be intimidating and overwhelming, however, please try not to stress yourselves because we will all work through this process together, with the success of each of our students, staff and families in the forefront. It is a learning experience, yet I am confident in that our staff and students will persevere in these challenging times. Through it all, we are the ‘Pirates’!

Various methods have been established by teachers to support continuous learning and growth, but we need your help. It is important to ensure that your child(ren) have a dedicated time for working on assignments, communicate regularly (required weekly) with your teachers on any questions, difficulties, as well as celebrations for we love to hear the good things, and remind your child(ren) to submit electronically or return their assignments weekly for grading. Teachers are going to be flexible, but they need to hear from you and receive completed work. Do not hesitate to reach out to them with any struggles or questions. We are here to assist you throughout this process.

**PLEASE READ AND GIVE YOUR INPUT by sending an email to Ken Eckelberry at keckelberry@cotopaxire3.org:** There are 4 critical components of information that we must have from you **before** March 30, 2020:

1. We need each family to ensure that we have the most current contact information for our records.
2. We need to know if your family has internet or access to internet (if you have not already done so).
3) We need to know what devices you have currently (for example: Ipad, Laptop, Home Desktop Computer, Tablet, Smart phone)
   [If you do not have a device but you do have access to internet, we will work to check out chrome books to each student in need. We should be able to provide these on Monday, March 30, 2020 at the same time as the food and homework distributions, if we know your needs.]
4) Please let us know if you wish to pick up assignments, packets and materials from the school on March 30th or if you want to have them available at the distribution points. Email Ken Eckelberry at keckelberry@cotopaxire3.org or Amber Canterbury at acanterbury@cotopaxire3.org with your preference.

Your feedback is a priority and we are here to help. If you need anything or have a recommendation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by email. We will respond as quickly as possible to assist in answering your questions or connect you with the resources you may need.

The news and media outlets are providing constant updates and information, however, we do want to refer you to our website as well http://www.cotopaxire3.org for valuable links to the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 and restrictions along with notices from the schools.

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility, it is greatly appreciated. Please take care of yourself and your neighbors. Remember to stay safe, remain positive and be well.

Sincerely,

Danielle Van Esselstine, Superintendent