To all Cotopaxi Parents,

As we go into our 5th week of distance learning, there is more definitive information that I can share with you. I would like to take this opportunity to say again how much the staff has appreciated the support and patience that you have had with the school as we’ve worked through these times. Here are questions that have been asked (or may be asked) by patrons with the answers-

- **Will the distance learning go to the end of the school year?** Yes, this was announced last week. We had hoped to be able to return to campus to finish out the year to provide a sense of normalcy for the students. We had also hoped to be able to have some of the spring semester activities to provide closure for the students before starting the summer. Unfortunately, with Governor Polis’ new orders, our normal structure for activities are not possible. We will just have to get creative.

- **When is the last day of school?** We received word from the Colorado Commissioner of Education Katy Anthes and were told that districts were given the latitude to close the school year two days early. As a district, we have chosen to do this. That means the last day of school for Cotopaxi students is May 19. The last day for our seniors’ will be May 12. Traditionally, our seniors’ school year ends a week earlier than the rest of the students.

- **Will my child be given time to make up work that has not been turned in?** The final week of the distance learning will be a ‘catch-up’ week for the students. This means that no additional assignments will be given to them and they will have a week to complete and turn in any assignments they have not completed. The last day any assignment can be turned in for a grade is May 13 for seniors and May 20 for non-seniors.

- **What is the schedule for the last 2 weeks of school?**
  
  Non-seniors last day- May 19  
  Non-seniors ‘catch-up’ week- May 13-19  
  Non-seniors last instructional packet- May 4  
  Non-seniors final turn-in date for all assignments- May 20  
  Non-seniors turn in all books and school property- May 20 **All items can be checked in early, if all work is complete.

  Seniors last day- May 12  
  Seniors ‘catch-up’ week- May 6-12  
  Seniors last instructional packet- April 27  
  Seniors final turn-in date for all assignments- May 13  
  Seniors turn in all books and school property- May 13 **All items can be checked in early, if all work is complete.
What will the process be to return all the school books and school property? As mentioned in the above schedule, the dates for seniors and non-seniors to return their books and school property will be May 13 and May 20 respectively. We ask that all books and material be brought back in a bag. If you have more than one student bringing books and materials back, have them each in their own bag. Bring them to the cafeteria. We would like to check off the materials in your presence to ensure that your child(ren) gets credit for everything that’s returned.

How will my child be graded for the 4th quarter? As a district, we recognize that there were limitations with distance learning as compared to face-to-face learning. Many of these limitations were beyond the control of the school and the student. To compensate for this, the 2nd semester grade will be calculated as follows: 70% from 3rd 9 week grade and 30% from the 4th 9 week grade. The 4th 9 week grades will still count towards the final 2nd semester grade but will only be 30% of it.

How will it be determined if my child(ren) can advance to the next grade level? Your child(ren)’s 4th quarter grade will not keep them from being advanced into the next grade level. This does not include a student (K-2nd) who was struggling before the 4th quarter and discussions have already taken place between the parents and the school about the possibility of retention. If the teacher and the parents feel a child would not be successful at the next grade level, then that child may be retained.

Will my secondary student receive credit for his/her 2nd semester classes? Your child will receive credit for every class he/she received a passing grade in.

Will my HS student remain on track to graduate? If your child was on track to graduate at the beginning of the school year and received a passing grade in all of his/her 1st and 2nd semester classes, then they will remain on track to graduate in their projected graduation year.

What plans are being made for our Cotopaxi High School Graduation ceremony? Mrs. Van Esselstine and I have met with the seniors and the decision has been made to celebrate graduation on May 24 at 1:30 pm. This is the same date and time as their original graduation date. We are working with Fremont Public Health on possible options.

What about the other end of year promotions and awards celebrations? Unfortunately, these will not take place in the normal structures. With the federal and state social distancing restrictions that are placed upon us, we are looking at alternative methods which may include celebrations as we begin next year.

What about the meal deliveries? Our regularly scheduled meal deliveries will continue through the month of May. As of this date, any meal deliveries in the month of June or beyond has not been decided on.

Hopefully, this addresses the questions you have. As it has been stated in previous communications, this is an evolving situation and as decisions are made at the federal, state, and local levels, we will adjust to make sure our procedures match the current guidelines.

I want to close my letter by encouraging you all to stay the course and push your kids to finish strong. The final few weeks is not the time to quit. There is hope. Twenty years from now, our students will reflect back on these historic times with their own children and share how these events shaped their determination and tenacity to achieve great things. Thank you for your perseverance and support. Cotopaxi Fremont County RE-3 is truly a community that has admirable character!

Ken Eckelberry, Principal