



North Little Rock School District

2400 Willow Street • North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114 • (501) 771-8000 • www.nlrzd.org

December 17, 2020

Dear North Little Rock School District Community,

COVID-19 has forced all of us to develop new and innovative ways to ensure that the teaching and learning process continues. As the fall semester progressed, district and school leaders listened to the concerns of teachers, students, parents, and other stakeholders, who offered recommendations on ways to improve the academic experience for every student. Out of these discussions, Virtual Learning Fridays emerged and was implemented for the second quarter, which ends on January 4, 2021. This day allows students to complete and review assignments or get additional help while teachers use the day for lesson and collaborative planning with other teachers, grading, and meeting the needs of individual students.

Considering the feedback from building leaders, teachers, and other stakeholders, we will extend **Virtual Learning Fridays until March 12, 2021**, which is the end of the third quarter. We will continue to monitor the implementation of Virtual Learning Fridays and will make adjustments to the model as needed while ensuring that our students receive high-quality instruction remotely or in-person. In addition, we want to make sure our teachers have the resources in place to support the needs of our students.

Extending Virtual Learning Fridays will also allow us to increase additional systems and structures to support the social-emotional health of our students and staff. District leaders will be meeting with school principals to develop and implement additional professional development and support for mental health services for students, staff, and families. In addition, if a student or parent is in need of any mental health services at any time, please call the STRIVE Clinic at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) at (501) 771-8261. This is a free service that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

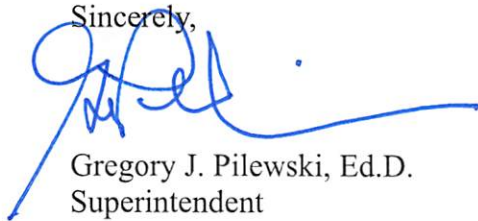
Furthermore, your child's principal will provide future communication on the structure and expectations of Virtual Learning Fridays. As such, you can expect to see a greater emphasis on personalized learning to meet the needs of each student.

Finally, please keep in mind that we are in constant contact and communication with state officials. Therefore, we will make the necessary adjustments to our instructional delivery model should there be a mandate from state leaders to make a change to our current schedule.

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On behalf of the entire school district, I want to thank you for your patience as we continue our journey to greatness. Please have a safe and healthy holiday season and I look forward to a fantastic new year together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Pilewski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory J. Pilewski, Ed.D.
Superintendent