



Connor Academy

1295 Alpine Avenue • Chubbuck • Idaho • 83202 • 208.232.1447

02 April 2020

Dear Parents:

Friday is the last day of our Spring break. Normally the school would be bustling with excited teachers cutting their vacation a little short to prepare for our students' return on Monday. This year things are different. We are still under the governor's state mandated soft close for all schools until at least April 20th. This means that students are not allowed to come to the school building and that only essential staff are allowed to work in the building. Those permitted in the building will strictly follow the guidelines from the U.S. Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Obviously, we will need to do things differently until the COVID-19 virus is under control. Our teachers will need two days (Monday 4/6 and Tuesday 4/7) to prepare for these changes. On Wednesday, 4/8 we will begin to roll-out our remote learning plan with the goal of having it in full swing by the end of the week.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How are you going to communicate with us?

- **Connor Academy App:** If you haven't downloaded our school app, please do so. You can get messages and alerts sent directly to your phone and can have a direct link (through the Ask Principal tile) to ask me questions.
- **Email:** Official school emails end only with the suffix: "@academycharter.net".
- **Connor Academy Facebook Page:** Our FB page is used more as a community bulletin board than as a means of social interaction. Questions and concerns are best expressed using email (administrator@academycharter.net) or through the school app.
- **School Website:** (www.academycharter.net): Our website is the most thorough resource for school documentation and is a portal to access teacher websites.
- **YouTube:** This is a new feature. There is a Connor Academy YouTube channel but it isn't ready for public access just yet. Eventually it will have news and lesson videos from teachers, administrators and others.
- **Zoom Meetings:** This is also a new feature and we are still working out the details. Teachers will have an opportunity to interact with their classes regularly using the Zoom format.
- **Google classroom:** This is only for the 5th through 8th grade classes who are generally more adept at typing. Students will be able to access their google classroom accounts to turn in writing assignments.

When will you have more packets and study materials ready?

New packets will be ready Wednesday, April 8th. Packets will be available at the school and online. We are still working out the safest way to collect and distribute packets. Our plan is to have the school open from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. one day/week so that families can pick up assignments and drop off completed work.

Approximately how much time should my student plan on spending on schoolwork?

At a minimum, you can expect your children to spend approximately the same amount of time doing their daily assignments that we previously allotted for homework, which is between one and two hours per day, depending on the grade level. This will include time spent reading, working on packets and time with the teacher online. We will be referring you to several free online resources that you may use for further enrichment or academic growth.

What if my child doesn't understand an assignment or needs help?

Teachers will be calling student homes on a weekly basis and will be conducting regular video conferences throughout the week (details to follow). You can also contact your teachers through email, or text if you have their number.

What if my child has limited access to technology?

Most of the online interaction can be accomplished using a smart phone. If your family does not have an internet connection at home or does not have a computer capable of conducting online meetings, please send me an email (joel.lovstedt@academycharter.net) with your phone number and we will figure out a solution.

Will the Library be open during this time?

We are still waiting for more guidance from the state on this issue. We are working on figuring out some way for kids to be able to check out books, but in the meantime, Ms. Eddie is reading books to children every day and is posting the videos on Facebook.

How are YOU doing, Mr. Lovstedt?

I'm fine, thanks. I'm healthy and I like my job but miss seeing the students and staff. The challenge to revamp our entire curriculum and delivery method in such a short period of time is daunting but we are up to the task. Within the constraints forced upon us by the soft close order, I'm confident that my teachers and staff will put together an excellent program. Like driving with a fake spare, it will get us where we need to go if we drive carefully. Trying times like these can bring out the worst in some people and the best in others. Thankfully, we seem to have a lot of good people in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Lovstedt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joel Lovstedt, Principal
Connor Academy
208-220-7372