March 27th, 2020

Hello to our Emerado Bulldogs. I understand that the past few weeks have been a whirlwind, as we begin transitioning to online learning. All staff and students in the Emerado District have been working tirelessly to make our transition an easy one. Over the past two weeks our world of education has changed as I’m sure it has in your personal lives as well. At the school, we are doing our due diligence to keep our students and families engaged during this difficult time. I could not be prouder of the effort shown by staff, students, families, and community coming together for the greater good. Food is being sent everyday by our kitchen staff, bus drivers are taking time to deliver, and teachers are busy preparing for a new educational experience. As we continue this process together, prepare to use perspective, practice patience, communicate effectively, and be flexible. We will have success working together!

The state has required that we carry out and plan for an uncertain and extended period of time. It is new to all of us! We must still document, hold attendance measures, submit grades, instruct, teach, and most importantly learn in a new situation that has never been carried out schoolwide, or in a distance manner. We are working tirelessly to make the transition run as smooth as possible for our students, and the near future. We do not want to overwhelm households with busy work or unnecessary communication. We only ask that families establish a space in their home, become familiar with their student the expectations required of them, and help guide until they can access all necessary technology items. Grading will directly affect the engagement we receive. If this is not reasonable, communicate concerns with grade level teachers in finding a resolution.

For parents/guardians at home, carrying out instruction will require teamwork, and our teachers are preparing to provide best practices. All of this guidance will be provided on our school website [www.emeradok8.com](http://www.emeradok8.com). Teachers pages have links, grade level info., lesson plans, and guidance. Instructors will be posting videos at least 2 times a week for instructional purposes with your students. Students may need help to access these apps a few times before they access themselves. Please make sure they are aware and are participating with these practices on a daily basis. We ask that families oversee that our students are spending the adequate amount of time on educational objectives each day for 1-3 hours total of time (45 min. to 1hr for PreK-1, 1 to 2hrs for 2-5, 2 to 3hrs for 6-8). Allocate this time during the day and set a schedule as instructor videos will not always be synchronous. We also ask that all assignments be completed by Fridays. Homework that was sent in folders, packets, and bags last week can be collected through a dropbox outside of door #2. Please put this work in a grocery/Ziploc bag if available. If other delivery methods need to be accommodated, communicate proactively with staff members. All staff will be available to answer questions from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm during school days, as well as addressing any circumstances we run into for our new educational setting. You may be asked to connect using an application, or another platform that each classroom teacher decides upon in their teacher page. It is paramount that together we must monitor, communicate, and hold each other accountable for our students’ academic growth during this time. Teachers will be reaching out if they have not heard or engaged with a student for an extended period of time. If there are barriers you run into during this process, please contact a staff member or the school. We know the new experience will take some time due to limited planning time and circumstances; but will with collaboration from all our families.

Students in grades 1-8 have devices available to them for educational purposes. An acceptable use policy contract will be sent home for parent/guardians to sign. Teachers will be monitoring/recording engagement in the platform of their choice for documentation and grading purposes.

Office hours will vary at the school for the time being but there will be staff present every school day from 11am to 1pm. Please leave a message on voicemail if personnel are not available.

We currently do not have a timeline to when we are returning. There is a lot of uncertainty that surrounds this pandemic. But we at the school have you and your students’ well-being in mind with everything we do. We miss having them in our building! Stay tuned for updates on our website, social media, and instant alerts as these changes occur daily. We do all we can to get the word out to you as soon as possible. Well wishes and safety to you and yours!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mickey Berry

Superintendent/Principal