

Dear D276 Elementary Students, Parents, and Community,

Let me start by saying this shutdown is not what students, teachers, parents, or school leaders signed-up for. No one is to blame, but in the end, there are always positives and negatives from guidelines, rules, and directives.

On Sunday, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) determined that all schools in Illinois must begin Remote Learning Days. Remote Learning can be carried-out in several forms. Luckily for our district, many of our staff started Remote Learning during the early weeks of the shutdown.

The new rules require that our Remote Learning Plan be posted on our website. The D276 plan will be posted by Monday April 6th. ISBE has granted every district the opportunity to use up to five (5) days for Remote Learning Planning. These days will be considered attendance days and will not need to be made-up. We have chosen to wait until Monday April 6th to account for any changes ISBE may make to the current rules.

During these newly created Remote Learning Days, the State has set a baseline that grading cannot have a negative impact on a student's grade. There are numerous factors that led ISBE to this position.

Going forward, our teachers will be operating on the concept of 100% participation. This new **Remote Learning will only be successful on an individual student basis if the student, parents, and teacher are dedicated to continued learning, structure, and engagement.**

In the end (according to ISBE *today*), if we do not return to in-person school and if a student does not participate, the student will receive the same grade they attained on March 16th. Students who participate will be able to raise their grades and MORE IMPORTANTLY, expand their knowledge and skill level while connecting with their teachers.

As I await further guidance from ISBE, I would invite all of our young learners and parents to participate in Remote Learning through packet completions, digital assignments, and teacher-student check-ins. This is a difficult time for students and parents (and teachers), structure, curiosity, and wonder can have a positive impact on everyone :)

Transparently,
Dr. Curry