Dear Families,

Over the past few weeks, your Maple Run teachers, staff, and administrators have been working on a plan for remote learning that will last through the end of this school year. We realize this is a very challenging time for our students and families. Our first priority is the safety and well-being of our entire community. We write today to provide you with some details and to let you know that we are here for you with any questions or concerns you may have in these challenging times; we are in this together.

As of April 13, the Governor has directed that schools will transition from maintenance of knowledge to “continuous learning”. School continues to be in session, even if we are not in our buildings. Participation in class activities, maintaining contact with your teachers, and completion of assignments are vital to ensuring progress.

Most of our work will now occur online. We realize that this presents some concerns for equity, both in terms of cost of online access and availability of online access. We understand that Comcast is booking hook-ups about three weeks out for internet service, and there are rural areas of our district and state where such service is not a possibility due to lack of infrastructure. To help, our school internet is open and available in many areas [Fairfield front parking lot, SACS parking lot, SATEC parking lot near building (front or back), BFA parking lot either near the north building or the sign at the south building]. You may park your car and children can access the internet. For families where this is entirely impossible, we can provide paper packets. We have not yet determined how best to retrieve work done on paper out of concern for transmission of the coronavirus, but we will communicate a plan with impacted families as it becomes available.

Our teachers are using a variety of online programs to communicate with students: from Google Classroom to Zoom and everything in between, they have been experimenting with different platforms and increasing their comfort level with the entirely new task of delivering instruction online. The learning curve is steep for all of us, so it is important to remember that, like in the traditional classroom, each teacher may do things differently and make use of resources differently. We should refrain from comparing teachers to each other or asking some teachers to do what other teachers are doing. Each professional is giving their all to meet the needs of all of our learners. Please be sure to communicate any concerns directly to any teachers involved.

One of our major concerns is the provision of special education services to students with IEPs, students receiving intervention services, and additional services for students on 504 plans. Our special educators are monitoring guidance from the state and federal government to stay abreast of nearly daily changes and will be offering distance learning plans (DLPs) to outline educational needs for this period of time. Our main goal is to ensure that students are provided an appropriate educational experience in a situation we have never lived through before.

Finally, know that we are here to help you as you adjust to new routines. Please let us know how we can be of service.

Respectfully,

Kevin Dirth, Superintendent
Maple Run Unified School District