



Meridian CUSD #101 School

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April 20, 2020

To: Meridian School Community,

After taking a couple of days to process the reality of not having in-person education for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, I wanted to share some thought and perspective. First, the letter I sent over the weekend was a canned letter sent throughout the State of Illinois in regards to schools not being allowed to reopen their doors to our students and staff for the remainder of the school year.

First to our students, I am sorry and this stinks. While we are making plans on how to recognize your achievements, it will not be able to replace all of the typical end of the year festivities we celebrate. The celebrations such as award ceremonies, prom, spring sports, field days, field trips and much more won't occur this year and for that I am sorry. Looking back 27 years ago, I can vividly remember all of those events and the memories it gave myself and my family. We are working on solutions to honor you for your achievements. This information will be going out next week.

One of our goals is to contact every student and some of you we have not heard from. Our staff wants to make sure you are doing ok and how they can help. If you have not responded to your teacher please do so, if you need something please reach out so we can help you.

While our doors may not be open and things are very different, I hope you will take this chance to do a couple of things. Number one, do not forget this moment in time. How many things were taken away in such a swift and short amount of time and how you never know when things change. Let this be a lesson to work hard, dream big and be a difference. Just as past generations changed their habits and taught lessons to their kids, this will be your chance. The generations that survived the Great Depression, riots, wars and other tumultuous times shared those stories, but also tried to make sure their kids had it better than they did. It was also a time where new inventions and ideas solved many of the issues of the past. This will be your chance to change the world, so do it.

Number two appreciate those around you! Parents and families are making big sacrifices during this time, but they are there for you. The staff at school is working hard to provide food and materials to help you during this time. Thank those who are giving of their time and effort and don't forget them. Maybe this will help us to appreciate those we take for granted everyday. When all of this is done, hopefully we will appreciate each other just a little more and that impact will be more than we could imagine.

Just know I am sad for you and the things that have occurred. I also miss your smiles, high-fives, hugs and tears. I miss talking to you and helping solve your problems. However, we will get through this, but let's make sure we never forget. If you need something, reach out to me at jgreen@meridian101.com, I will do my best to help you.

Thank you,
Jonathan D. Green