April 21, 2020

Dear Andover Families,

It is our hope that you are staying healthy and safe during this time. There is not a day that goes by that we are not thinking about our students and our families. We miss having you all in school!

I would like to thank you for your patience as we work on figuring out how to best deliver education to our students at this time, balancing what we are mandated to do and what is doable and works best for our students and families who are working hard to help their students keep up with school work and continue to learn while at home. Last week we met with the teachers and created a weekly schedule that our students can follow for their Zoom instructional classes. Teachers and support staff have also created a schedule for office hours to help assist you and our students with any questions or concerns.

School districts have been mandated by NYS Education Department to provide “Continuity of Learning.” This means that instruction needs to include new standards and curriculum, not just review. For the rest of the fourth quarter, we are going to focus on ELA and Math for grades PK-6. ***Effective immediately there will be no special subjects, including STEM assignments, required at the PK-6 grade levels.*** For grades 7-12 our focus will be on core content classes. ***Effective immediately Physical Education will continue with weekly assignments/tasks and Music and Art will rotate every other week with assignments for grades 7-12.***

We understand and want to be compassionate to your needs and struggles. As you know, students are being graded during the 4th quarter. It is our expectation that students and families accomplish what they can, when they can! We understand that students may not be able to make all/every Zoom instructional sessions. ***Effective immediately students will no longer receive a “zero” when an assignment is not turned in by the due date assigned***. If an assignment is not turned in, the teacher will give the student an “incomplete.” If the assignment is not completed **by the end of the 4th quarter**, the “incomplete” will turn into a “zero” grade.

Our goal is to make sure our students do not regress too much during this time at home. We hope that the more time our students can put into their learning now, the less likely they will need intervention (AIS) services when we return to school.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that during this challenging time we are here for you! We are listening and we are constantly learning and making changes daily to improve what is being done. We ask for your patience during this time and appreciate all the support and input/feedback we are receiving! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. You can reach me at kslavinski@andovercsd.org.

Your partner in education,

Kathryn Slavinski