

# DRIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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*Dedicated and Motivated to Succeed!*

Dear DMS Parents and Students,

Wow, what a week! First of all I want to express my appreciation for everyone's flexibility and patience while we travel through this difficult and unusual time. I am so proud of our students who have shown resiliency, grit, compassion and support for each other. During this time, these characteristics are ones that will help all of us get through whatever lies ahead.

While there is still so much uncertainty, what I can assure you is that we will do everything possible to make decisions in the best interest of your child, support you and your child and continue with instruction as best we can. What is most important is to try and keep things as consistent as possible and help your child develop a new routine for their schooling as we all work better with a routine. As we develop our strategies, please know they may change. I know our teachers will try new things, evaluate what they are doing and make adjustments as necessary. It is important to keep instruction and learning happening throughout this time so that students do not lose ground. It is likely that we will also provide some level of instruction, although not at the same intensity, for students over April break to continue the learning.

While we are doing so much through on-line learning it is possible that our technology will provide some limitations. Please know we will support whatever we can but will be very challenged if we get large number of requests for help. Also, it is ok to unplug a little and do some "old-fashioned" learning like reading, writing, drawing and talking about the things we are learning.

I don't want students to worry too much about things, especially school. We will figure it all out. We will be making adjustments along the way. We will still be providing instruction, assigning work to be completed, grading assignments and providing feedback to students. Just like when we are at school, we want students to do their best, stay as focused as possible while working, attend to the work given and most importantly, ask for help if they need it. All teachers are providing opportunities to connect with their students and offer sessions for extra help.

This can be a very overwhelming time, for children and adults. There are no easy ways to make this less overwhelming but some suggestions are to practice some self-care strategies: breathing, mindfulness, physical activity, playing games, being outside, listening to music, drawing, or any other activities you use to help relieve stress. It is important to take care of ourselves. Take one day at a time, one subject at time, one activity at a time. It is also important to talk about what we are feeling, what we are worried about and what questions we may have. I would encourage you as a family to find time to just talk about what is happening and what you are thinking about.

Our partnership is a valuable commodity right now. Let's capitalize on what we already have to work together to make this work as best we can. Please contact us at any time with questions, concerns or feedback to help us do things better. As of this letter, we are planning to be in the office from 8:30-3:00, Monday-Friday. We are also accessible by email and we will do our best to respond to people in a timely manner.

Thank you for your patience and support,