May 26, 2020

Dear Freshwater Families,

It is hard to believe that our school year is winding down and it is certainly not ending the way that any of us expected. We truly miss seeing and interacting with all of our students on campus, but our top priority continues to be the health and safety of our Freshwater Families. Though this Shelter In Place can increase anxiety and stress, it also gives us a unique opportunity to spend more time with our families, and I sincerely hope that you have all remained healthy during this challenging time. Our teachers and support staff have performed heroically during this crisis, and so have all of you by providing consistent support to your children as they have adjusted to the challenges of remote learning. We have maintained a very high percentage of school-wide engagement during Distance Learning and that is a testament to the effort that you have put forward to prioritize academics and support your student(s) during this closure. Thank you for your willingness to adjust to these unprecedented circumstances and partnering with us in a positive way to provide the best education possible to our students during this pandemic.

As we approach the finish of the 2019/20 school year, we are all looking ahead to the start of the 2020/21 school year and wondering what it will look like. In a time of uncertainty the one thing that is certain is that we find ourselves in the middle of a state budget crisis and a global health crisis, and the news regarding this virus continues to change daily. Right now there are more questions than answers, but without a formal executive order from the federal or state level, we will continue to follow the daily guidance set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and our local Public Health Department. I want you to know that it is my goal for all students to return to a regular schedule at school as soon as it is safely possible.

While we do not know what the months ahead will look like in relation to the COVID19- situation, we will plan for a variety of scenarios so we are ready to start school in the fall with the best learning options and conditions for both students and staff, depending on the environmental situation. This planning process gives us the opportunity to think ahead and prepare. As we continue to gather information and resources from our county and state regarding how to reopen our campus at Freshwater, we will be sending out a brief survey tomorrow regarding your intentions for your child(ren) next school year. Your input will help the District make decisions about how to best serve our families during this pandemic.

We will keep you informed of the timeline for reopening our campus as well as any changes in our educational delivery to students so that you know what to expect when we return to school. As always, we value your input and participation in this process as we move forward. Though this pandemic has created incredible challenges for our school district to overcome, we have a strong community of educators and families and we will continue to support each other as we work through this together. We all look forward to the day when these challenging times are behind us.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all again in person.

Warm Regards,

Si Talty, Superintendent