March 17, 2020

Battle Parents and Students,

Thank you for your patience in this unprecedented time in dealing with a world pandemic. The district wanted to make informed decisions and have been collaborating over the past week with our local health department, CDC, local and state governments and the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure we keep students safe and how best to move forward with educating our students. We appreciate and honor the parents’ decisions to keep their children home during the last week. The ultimate decision about your health and that of your children is up to you.

As you are probably aware, Columbia Public Schools has decided to close the school district from March 18-April 13 to comply with the recommendation to provide social distancing to help with the spike in COVID-19 that is anticipated. At the end of that time, we will reassess to determine if additional closings are warranted. For additional resources and information at this link: www.cpsk12.org/COVID19

With this news, our teachers have been learning, collaborating and preparing on-line assignments that students can access during this time. We have spent the last two days making sure our students could access Schoology for educational instructions and materials. Please be patient with us as our teachers continue to provide on-line instruction for a diverse set of student needs. **Our teachers are expected to post everything on Schoology beginning March 30.**

Here are some things you need to know....

Our **teachers** will:

- provide learning materials for the essential curriculum and assignments through Schoology. If you have any questions or have issues logging in, please feel free to contact the help desk at 573-214-3333. You will also find additional support regarding your technology needs on our webpage under the Family Resources Tab and here’s a link to the page: https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/13380
- be available during office hours to answer any questions and/or help students. Please access teacher emails and office hours here. (ctrl+click)
- work with students to get the needed instruction and learning to be successful for the semester.

We expect our **students** to:

- log onto Schoology DAILY beginning March 30 to see if new assignments are posted.
- check their school email accounts DAILY.
- complete the assignments and activities provided by the instructor.
- contact their teachers if they need assistance with instruction. Teachers will be available and responding to questions during their office hours each day beginning March 30-April 10. You can email them at any time, but they will be answering questions and available in a timely manner during this time.

Our **counselors and administrators** will:

- be available for any assistance needed. Our contact information is also available on the shared link.
- post information to Schoology via the grade level groups as needed.
Technology needs:

- All students should have a school provided laptop. If students have misplaced their charger, they can pick one up in the media center or main office this week.
- For help with technology at home or other technology information, visit our district technology website for the latest information covid19/technology (ctrl+click)

At this time, our senior activities are still scheduled as planned with prom set for April 25 and Commencement on May 23. We will reassess this plan if needed in mid-April.

The spring sports season has been postponed while we are out of school. We will review in mid-April about how to proceed based upon recommendations from MSHSAA who is working with the health department and state government.

As we figure all this out together, please know that we will do everything we can to support students. Our constant question is, “What will be best for our kids?” It is important that everyone remains healthy and that our Spartans continue to learn and participate in their education to the best of their abilities. We thank everyone for their support.

Please reach out to us if we can help support your child’s learning needs.

Respectfully,

Kim Presko

Dr. Kim Presko
Principal
Muriel Battle High School