Smithton Families,

Thank you all for your patience and hardwork as we have all been transitioning to this new virtual world of learning. It is not easy and I can’t imagine what you are all dealing with at home. It has not been an easy transition for the Drury Family and I know as this closure continues it’s not getting easier. We love each other but it is a lot of togetherness, on top of trying to work, teach, and run a household. In an effort to try to ease anxiety and some of the pressure the district has created a new plan for moving forward as detailed in an email that was sent out earlier this week. We have a plan, now it is time to enact the plan and figure out what issues are coming up. Yesterday, I was available for a Zoom meeting with parents. What I got from that meeting and emails from parents and teachers is that you all need some clarification. This is my attempt to do that. If you still have questions or concerns please email or call.

Our new reality... here are some bullet points. I bounce around a little but hope this helps.

- **All students have been given a mark of either Passing (P) or Incomplete (IC) based on their grade as of March 10th.** Families should be able to see those grades now in Home Access. There may be percentages for assignments and things in the Classwork sections but that doesn’t matter at this point. It is the P or IC.

- **Students with IC will work with teachers to bring that grade up.** This may be working on missing assignments or completing new work. Our goal is to get all students to a P.

- **Teachers will have daily office hours.** This is a time to reach out with questions and set up times to talk one-on-one about concerns, but you are also free to email at any time.

- **The district has assigned each content area a specific day to contact with students.** This means that one day a week you will get an email from that specific teacher outlining the week and offer help and advice. This will be the only day of the week that the content teacher will send out an email to the whole class or offer a whole class Zoom.

- **Even though each subject has an assigned day, you can select items from the choice boards to work on throughout the week.** Just because math is listed as Monday doesn’t mean that is the only day you will work on math. Most content areas are setting up a type of choice board. This is meant to give students some independence and allow them to do activities that interest them. The more interested they are the more engaged they will be in the content. Some items on the boards will be required. They don’t have a choice but there will be plenty of other items they can pick to complete.

- **Current activities will not be graded.** If a student has a P now that’s what they will have moving forward. That will not change. This does not mean we don’t do work. Being a lifelong learner is about building a habit, building that learning muscle. That’s why each day we need to do a little. This allows us to stay connected with the content and practice being a learner.
● **Gaps in this year’s curriculum will be addressed next year.** Teachers across grade levels are communicating so that any content missed this year will be added to next year’s curriculum.

● **All students across the district receive the same lessons.** Teachers are getting support from their content coordinators. The district has coordinators that guide the curriculum in their content area. The goal is to make sure that students are getting the same experience regardless of the school they attend. The choices you see in 7th grade math are the same ones Gentry 7th grade math is seeing.

● **Schedule is important.** Routine is important. We sent out an example of a schedule. I would still try to stick to something similar. The only difference would be each day will have some possible Zoom meeting. This means each day is different. But you should set aside some time each day for each content area. It may only be 15 - 30 minutes each day but that is ok!

  ○ Here is a sample schedule - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A3QO-qSKFwb-NAZwyCtrhyQkEwXXILRgf8t5tpgzkf4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A3QO-qSKFwb-NAZwyCtrhyQkEwXXILRgf8t5tpgzkf4/edit?usp=sharing)

  ○ Sit down with your student and make a schedule. As they get information from their teachers they can update their schedules and set goals for what they will accomplish each day.

  ○ You can change the schedule. If it’s nice outside, send the kids outside. Go for a walk, mow the yard! Read a book!

● **Read!** When in doubt, read a book! If they need something to do. They are bored? Read!

● Utilize the district’s website for resources - [https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/11993](https://www.cpsk12.org/Page/11993)

● **Technology Support.** If you are still having problems with iPads or Internet please contact the district’s Help Desk - 573-214-3333.

When in doubt reach out! Email your grade level teachers, email me! We are here to help and clear things up. Here is the list of contacts again if you need help - [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-vUJe4OKmHGQpnp6iXbU7RRM2Z3xHY6V9QEXE-TQ04/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-vUJe4OKmHGQpnp6iXbU7RRM2Z3xHY6V9QEXE-TQ04/edit?usp=sharing)

Thanks,

Chris