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April 10, 2020

Good Afternoon Newhall Families,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy. I am sure this isn't the spring break you had planned when the school year started. Who would have thought we would be in the middle of a pandemic stuck at home with pouring rain for much of the break? During much of the spring break our staff including teachers, administrators, and support staff have continued to gear up for our Distance Learning launch on Monday April 13th.

Teachers have been working tirelessly to learn these new on-line structures to ensure students across our district have meaningful learning opportunities during the week. Your child's teacher will share a recommended daily schedule for your child to follow that will include English Language arts/English Language Development, math, science, potentially social studies some days, PE minutes, as well as other on-line programming like DreamBox and Raz Kids. Our music and art teachers are working to create programming for students as well. You can access more information about our Distance Learning program on our website at https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com.

Just as important as all the prior information, if your child receives special education services, know that our Student Support Services staff has been working overtime to get supports in place for the services that are in your child's IEP or 504 plan. A special education support line will be available to families via Google Voice, M-F, 8AM- 12PM. Details will be sent to SSS families through a Blackboard e-mail shortly. We are confident that we will be able to meet the specific needs of your child, just in a different setting.

We realize the structure for on-line learning is different. Teachers will be providing instruction in a variety of platforms/methods including direct instruction, videos, or written assignments across all content areas, but they will not be teaching live on-line all day. Our goal is to ensure your child's learning progresses so they are ready for next year. We ask that you partner with us along this new endeavor and reach out to any of us if you have questions or feedback.

Lastly, if you communicated a need for internet access, we are still waiting for our shipment of hotspots to arrive. Once they are here your site administrators will be in contact with you to let you know when they can be picked up. Don't forget our tech support line will be open starting Monday at 7:30 am-7:30 pm. Please call 661-291-4159, and for Spanish speakers, 661-291-4180 (7:30 am-11:30 am). If you still need a device for your child, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely, Jeff Pelzel, Superintendent of Schools