

April 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know the past few weeks have been challenging as we all try our best to adapt to these changing circumstances. Students with special needs continue to be some of the most vulnerable to these changes. I wanted to provide an update on some of the ways in which the Special Education Department has been working to maintain a continuity of support through our new format of virtual instruction.

IEP and 504 Meetings

Our office has taken the precaution of planning for IEP and 504 meetings to continue via teleconferencing. The staff on your meeting invitation will also be participating as planned. We encourage all meetings to continue as scheduled in order to accommodate all meetings within the school year. Currently, our office is working to contact parents with directions on how to participate in virtual meetings at least a week prior to their meetings.

Instruction and Related Services

Instruction and Related Services will be provided virtually using different technology and supplementary materials. This support currently looks like a combination of “live” instruction/therapy, pre-recorded lessons and supplementary materials. Our hope is that through a range of modalities, we will be able to offer students access to support based on their varying needs and accessibility.

Some of you have also reached out with concerns regarding your child’s access to social skill-building opportunities. Currently, our staff is looking at different ways to support these skills through new virtual platforms. We understand that opportunities for socialization are just as important as academic ones.

We also appreciate that this new world that we are living in can contribute to feelings of anxiety, isolation, and depression. Please know that our psychologists and social workers are here to support your child’s mental health with various resources and support that range from daily mindfulness activities to emergency supports. Some of these resources can be accessed [HERE](#) on the community/mental health page of our district website.



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Jean Gismervik
Director
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CPSE

CPSE related services will be switching to virtual instruction utilizing telehealth services. We have provided consent to the county to initiate services in this way for our district students and service providers will be following up with a letter of consent to parents. Service implementation cannot begin until consent is signed. Service delivery, times and dates may vary from your original schedule with providers to allow for more consistent support and flexibility.

Out of District

Any student currently enrolled in special education programs outside of the district will continue to receive support from their current placement. Schools have informed us that they are working to provide virtual instruction and related services. This can and will look different from program to program. Staff at out of district placements have been contacted in regards to upcoming annual reviews in order to maintain their participation in all meetings.

Sincerely,

Jean Gismervik
Director of Special Education