



School District of Cambridge

District Office

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Dear Senators Nass, Fitzgerald, Ringhand and Representatives Horlacher and Dittrich and Vruwink,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well during this unprecedented health crisis in our country. You are each very important to the School District of Cambridge because you represent a portion of our school district residents in the legislature. Our staff, students and district residents appreciate all that you do to support us and all Wisconsin schools. I am writing this to share with you the amazing work that is being done to keep meeting our students' educational needs as well as their physical and social emotional needs. Our administrative team, in the first days of the crisis, provided leadership and formed teams to meet our students' needs. Our members formed the following teams: Delivery of Instruction, Family/Community Needs, Human Resource and a Communications team. These teams met challenges from meeting internet connectivity issues, providing computers, providing food and other basic family needs as well as assisting our employees' unique human resource needs. We also formed a team to keep our community and school families informed about all of our efforts and available resources during the pandemic.

Our district closed its doors to students on March 13 and that is when our staff went into action to plan and implement remote learning for all of our 930 students. Our instructional program will continue until the end of the school year. Our learning plan consists of putting together learning packets for our students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade. Some of the planned learning activities in our elementary school include:

- Weekly art and craft projects with provided materials
- Posted daily read alouds
- Science projects with provided materials
- Sight word cards and fluency sentences
- Math journals
- Writing journals
- Family connections through Google Meets
- Connecting with students through phone calls, texts, social media and Screencastify
- Online programs for reading texts

At the Nikolay Middle School, Koshkonong Trails and Cambridge High School all of our students are provided with a Chromebook, this was possible in large part because of the 2017 legislation that provided funding to expedite this initiative. It turned out to be a crucial part of

the solution to keep learning going in our district during the pandemic. Some of the planned learning activities in these schools include:

- Weekly lesson plans that focus on moving through established curriculum
- Use of daily virtual meetings and Google Classroom to connect with students on a daily basis
- Hands-on time outdoors, biodiversity study using iNaturalist
- Google meets for face to face learning opportunities
- Connecting with student through numerous social media platforms
- “Porch visits” with student that need additional learning supports


Our student services and special educators have been going above and beyond all expectations to connect with and support our special needs students. This support will continue into the summer where compensatory services will be provided when required.

We also appreciate the outstanding work of our food service personnel who prepare more than 1,500 meals per week to meet the nutritional needs of more than 300 of our students. Once the meals are prepared they are delivered by support staff and school administrators to our very appreciative families.

Our custodial staff have been doing essential cleaning for the areas of operation at school still taking place. Most recently, all of our custodians have returned to work to begin preparing our schools for our next big challenge; opening up our doors in the fall.

In closing, our students, staff and community have worked extremely hard to meet the many challenges associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic. I ask for your continued support to keep our school system and all of the schools across Wisconsin operating as normal as possible. In Cambridge, in addition to be a highly functioning academic institution, the schools are the largest employer as well as the biggest social safety net for the community’s children. We, with your continued support, will make it through this unprecedented challenge and come out on the other side stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard Nikolay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernard Nikolay, Superintendent
School District of Cambridge