April 13, 2020

Hello Cotting Parents,

For those celebrating Passover and Easter, I hope you had some time to pause and enjoy the holidays.

Here are some important updates for the week ahead:

**Distance Learning Plan** – This past Thursday, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shared a template for formatting and documenting student Distance Learning Plans. We are creating a plan for each Cotting student using this DESE template. Our goal is to have these completed by this Thursday, April 16th. These plans will be emailed to you and to your school district. Please note: **Distance Learning Plans do NOT require an amendment to your child’s IEP.** The Distance Learning Plan outlines how, when, and what services will be provided to your child during school closure.

**Schedules** – We are in the process of **creating individual master schedules for each student.** These will include all scheduled live video meetings and the Zoom links for each activity. We recognize that it is difficult to keep track of and find all the various Zoom links during the week. Having one schedule with all the meetings across the week available in one place should help make this more manageable.

Today, your child’s classroom teacher will **share the first draft of these schedules that include the group learning activities for the whole class.** This will include specials such as art, performing arts, adapted physical education, industrial arts, and vocational activities. As we continue to add therapy activities and other classes, we will update your child’s individual schedule with the **goal of having all the live learning activities listed on one document.** We appreciate your patience as we work on these schedules. Also note that your child’s individual schedule is part of their Distance Learning Plan and will also be emailed to your school district.
School vacation week – As a reminder school is closed, Monday, April 20th and open April 21-24.

While it is difficult to believe that today marks one month that school has been closed, I am very proud of the work of our entire community. Within a short time and under difficult circumstances, we have worked together to provide the best possible experience for our students. We will continue to revise and refine our efforts for as long as needed as we move ahead.

As always, please reach out with questions and concerns.

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