



March 13, 2020

Dear Exploris Community,

The impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has had significant impacts worldwide and is causing us to take unprecedented steps to balance our educational mission with the health, safety and well-being of our entire community. It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this morning to inform our school community that together with the Exploris School Board we have determined that we will be transitioning from in-person instruction to a digital learning environment next week. While there are not any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school community, we believe that it is important for us to be proactive in supporting the community effort to reduce the spread of the virus and implement policies that will protect our students, staff, and community.

Public health officials and the CDC have recommended social distancing strategies and the cancellation of large group gatherings in an effort to curtail the exponential growth of the pandemic. Our school has been preparing for this possibility over the last two weeks and begun the process for developing digital learning plans and identifying family needs for technology and other school supports needed during a transition away from in-person instruction. Today, teachers will practice digital learning instruction to ensure students are familiar with some of the digital tools that will be utilized, understanding that technology strategies will continue to evolve.

Friday, March 13, 2020 will be the last in-person school day for students. Online learning will begin on Thursday, March 19, 2020 for students and continue digitally through April 3, 2020. School will be closed as scheduled for spring break from April 6, 2020 through April 10, 2020. At this time, we anticipate resuming in-person instruction for students on April 13, 2020. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the timing based on how the situation evolves.

School will be open for staff from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Wednesday, March 18, 2020 for teacher workdays so that we can offer professional development on digital learning tools and allow our teachers to more fully prepare lessons for the transition to digital learning. Crew teachers will be communicating directly with students and parents to discuss the plans, instructional strategies, and timing for the online learning experiences and expectations. Teachers will be delivering instruction, grading student work, monitoring student attendance, and communicating with families throughout this digital learning process to ensure that we collaborate together to support your child.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate through this transition. The info@exploris.org email and attendance@exploris.org will be monitored for general questions and attendance reporting needs. We recognize that this will be a challenge for many families and appreciate your support and cooperation. We are confident that together we will weather through this storm and bond together to support one another. Please feel free to reach

out to your crew teacher, school counselor, or an administrator if you need additional support for your student or family. My deepest wish for the health and well-being of your entire family. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elli".

Executive Director