



Dear Exploris Community,

I hope this message finds you all well during this challenging time for our country, and that your family is as prepared as possible for the uncertain future. I wanted to reassure you that our staff has been working tirelessly to prepare for our transition to digital learning. State and school leaders had multiple calls throughout the weekend to share information statewide to plan for the future of education during this public health crisis.

Our unified goal is to continue instruction and provide routines for your child to ensure a sense of normalcy. We fully recognize and understand that this transition is challenging for all families. Some students may be supervising siblings, families may all be working remotely in limited space, and technology access could be a challenge. Staff will also be working remotely from home and juggling their own children, parents, and technology issues.

In an effort to provide additional support, all staff participated in team meetings, professional development, and lesson planning today to support our readiness for launch. Although many area schools are closed until the end of March, Exploris has planned for our transition to digital learning to begin on Thursday, March 19, 2020. Teachers will be sending out information to all students and parents so they are ready to begin online instruction on Thursday. Our teachers and students will be utilizing a combination of digital and non-digital instruction and activities. Our team will try to minimize the introduction of new tools so that it is not overwhelming for our students or burdensome for families. We have used Google as our main school platform for the last few years and will continue to expand and integrate as many Google tools that will support our new remote learning environment. Teachers will also integrate additional programs that they identify will further facilitate student creativity and learning as well as encourage students to connect with nature and enjoy time outdoors.

Please understand this is a new process for our staff as well and allow some grace and space for our teachers to venture into this new educational instructional model. Exploris will be reflective as we move through the implementation and make modifications as needed to respond to the ever-changing situation. After meeting with our entire Exploris team, I am confident that they are ready for this challenge and have the creativity and innovative spirit for success in this crisis. Exploris thrives during challenges and we are fortunate to have master educators that are fully equipped and engaged to support your children and family.

If your family needs any additional support with technology, emotional support, and/or meals, please reach out to your crew teacher or our School Counselor at michelled@exploris.org. On behalf of our entire school community, I wish all the best to your entire family.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elly', is located at the bottom left of the page.