



Dear All:

These last six weeks have been interesting, to say the least. Our 2020 Seniors are missing some of the most exciting times of their HS career. Teachers are doing their best to create and distribute lessons in ways we have never been required to do so in the past. Students and parents are wondering what is going to happen next as we come to a close of the 2019-2020 school year. I hope these are not the signs of the times for the future, but we do know that it is our reality today.

As we begin to wrap up the 2019-2020 school year, I must emphasize to all students and parents our volunteer teaching program will not end until the last day of school. We encourage all students to continue to persevere and complete lessons every day through May 21, 2020. Not only is this good practice, but we are also encouraged by the Department of Education of Iowa.

This communication is to alert everyone to the many changes or updates that are coming in the near future. With the month of May already upon us, our communication is ever so important. The administrative team is now working to finish strong with our volunteer (teaching) learning program. (Of the 333 school districts in Iowa, 287 districts chose the volunteer-style program. The remaining 46 schools are implementing the required learning program in the state of Iowa, mostly at the 9th-12th grade level.) This program will end the last day of school which is May 21, 2020.

The Principals have planned and included communication regarding desk clean-out and supply pick-up schedules, graduation, and returning school supply information in May. This communication will be distributed through our on-line formats (Facebook, Iowa Alerts, (JMC), and the school's website). **Please pay close attention to this information.**

From the Principals:

Greetings Starmont Families,

This is not the way any of us planned on finishing up the 2019-2020 school year. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and patience during this hectic time. In the meanwhile, we want to give you some information about school happenings.

Supply Drop Off-

You will be getting further information on this after restrictions in our area have been lifted by our governor.

Returning school property- (Please follow these procedures once the Supply Drop Off is arranged)

-Elementary: Please return all school property when you pick up your things from the buses. The drivers and helpers on the bus will be collecting: library books, classroom book bags, teacher books, and anything else that students have that is considered school property. If you are unsure about an item, please contact classroom teachers for assistance. We would like all returning items bagged and tagged with your child's name so that we know you have made your return. If you would please do this in advance it will really help us out.

-Secondary: Please plan on bringing your items that belong to the school to place on the bus after picking up your belongings. Things you should be returning include textbooks, library books, uniforms, etc. PLEASE KEEP YOUR LAPTOPS and charger at this time.

Grade Level Advancement-

-Elementary: All students will advance to the next grade level.

-Secondary: All students will advance to the next grade level as long as they have met the requirements of current courses. Please make sure you do not have a failing grade.

Report cards-

-Elementary: Report cards for the 3rd quarter will be coming in the supply drop off bags for all elementary students.

-Secondary: Report cards for the grades 6th-11th will be mailed to families May 26th. Seniors will get their reports when they get their diplomas. Concerning Grades for 6-12th students: After much discussion, we have decided to use a pass/fail system for letter grades for the second semester and for the third and fourth quarter for middle school. A student will need to be earning a 60% in a class in order to be considered passing. Students will be allowed to retake electives. All course work for 6th through 11th grade will be due by May 21 (so if you are failing a class you have until this date to get your work in) Teachers will be putting grades in Powerschool by May 22.

Voluntary Learning-

-Elementary: Voluntary learning opportunities will continue through May 21st. In all of the elementary supply bags, families will find a paper packet with several weeks of learning opportunities that have been compiled by each classroom teacher. Please use these materials at your discretion throughout the month of May or summer months.

-Secondary: Voluntary learning will continue through May 21st. All students in grades 6th-12th will receive either a P (passing) or F (failing). To pass a class from the third quarter all students must have at least a 60%. Seniors have until May 8th to improve their grade for P/F.

Lunches

The school lunch delivery program will end on Thursday, May 21st.

Summer school-

A summer school general session will not be offered this year. It will only be available to students who need extra credits to graduate on time. We have a school team that will track the impact of the closure on student progress throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The team will analyze the data collected and determine if summer school services are needed for June 2021. We will keep you up to date on this team's work.

Graduation

Starmont will be holding a modified graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00. It is hard to make decisions when we really do not know what type of restrictions will be in place for May 17. Due to the current guidelines and safety measurements from the Governor for district 6, we are planning a modified graduation ceremony on May 17 at 2:00. We will not be going into the school for the ceremony. Rather, we will be using somewhat of a drive-up movie-theater atmosphere, with technology playing a very big role in the ceremony. This will be taking place in the parking lot on the AMPI side of the building.

That being said, this year we are requiring students and at least one parent to join us for the practice, on Tuesday, May 12 at 6:00 pm. One of the biggest modifications we have had to make is allowing ONLY ONE vehicle per student up close to the building. We have 41 students graduating and each student will have a reserved parking spot close to the building. We are asking family members within that car to stay in the vehicle at all times to help with safety precautions. The student will be allowed out of the vehicle to pick up his/her diploma. If you need another vehicle at the graduation, please contact Suzy Hamlett either through email shamlett@starmont.k12.ia.us or through phone 563-920-6103 before May 12. We will be handing out parking passes at the practice in order to limit the number of cars.

PROM

Prom has been postponed to Saturday, June 27 at the Arlington Community Center. The grand march will take place in front of the Arlington Community Center starting at 6:00, with a meal at 7:00 and dance from 8 to 11:00.

If the state Covid 19 guidelines have not been lifted by June 27, then prom will be moved to Friday, July 17 at the Arlington Community Center.

If the guidelines have not been lifted by July 17, prom will be cancelled.

As we move closer to the end of May, please understand that your children are our highest priority. Their safety and wellbeing will always come first. As we have already begun our planning to end the school year, we will have an even better plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

We miss your son(s)/daughter(s) and already can't wait to open up to a more "normal" school day this August. **Our first day of school in August is currently August 24, 2020. As an Administrative team we will try our best to send out information pertaining to the beginning of the school year as we get it from the Department of Education.**

If you need help or have questions, please email us. Our building is currently closed and will remain closed until the governor lifts her restrictions on our region. If the restrictions are not lifted on May 15th, we will contact you to give you an update on the supply drop off plan.

Best Regards,

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Shauna Koppenhaver, Secondary Principal, skoppenhaver@starmont.k12.ia.us

Troy Heller, Superintendent, theller@starmont.k12.ia.us