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Dear Middle and High School Parents,

I hope this letter finds you, your family and loved ones in good health. There has been an old saying out there for decades that “It takes a village to raise a child” and boy does that resonate into the world of remote and online learning. Every day we work through issues and concerns that arise and then only to be put back into place with another scenario that needs attention. With your support, we work out the kinks with diligence, drive and a passion to create the best learning environment for your children, our students.

There is a definite difference of structure and expectation from last spring (fourth quarter) and the start to this year. Last spring as per NMPED we were to be encouraging and positive in making the learning experience the best we could under the reality of COVID. Now, we are being asked to make the experience as real as possible under the remote learning rules of engagement. Grading scales and practices, daily attendance, and behavior expectations remain the same as if we were in a traditional brick and mortar setting. We understand that internet connectivity, family dynamics, and other societal issues can have a direct influence on these areas. Please call or email the teachers or office with information necessary for your child’s individual needs.

I just want to touch on a couple of items as part of this effort to make the learning environment more efficient. I know that “hard packets” are necessary for either those who do not have internet or shaky internet service. I just want to remind everyone that a “hard packet” of paperwork is supplemental to the learning process. “Hard packets” do not replace the actual instruction that the student would receive in the classroom whether online or in person in the brick and mortar/classroom. Even though the students receive the “hard packet” we really need them to attempt to attend the classroom during the times posted or call to set up a telephone conference with teacher(s).

Within all communities except Zia Pueblo, the *delivery* of “hard packets” occurs every Thursday via the morning bus route starting at 8:00 a.m. and the *return* of “hard packets” with completed assignments by the students is to occur every Monday via the morning bus route. For Zia Pueblo residents, the distribution of “hard packets” and the *return* of “hard packets” with completed assignments by students occurs every Thursday evening at the Tribal Administration Office starting at 3:00 p.m. It is very important that the work is completed and returned every week to the school for teacher viewing. It is from the teacher’s review of completed assignments where a student’s level of understanding or mastery of the lesson is determined.

It is critically important that our students and their parent/guardian understand the attendance guidelines for the morning and the afternoon class sessions. Students will be informed by their teacher(s) if they need to attend an assigned morning class session. (Students must check their email.) Students must attend “all” afternoon class sessions daily. Attendance in a class during the morning does not mean the afternoon class is optional or unnecessary. Both times are essential to the delivery of instruction for the students’ “total” learning experience.

I will be sending a biweekly letter for us to stay in contact during this interesting, challenging and turbulent time of COVID.

Sincerely,
Principal Scott Meihack