



MINERAL POINT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pointer Families,

We are about to begin a very different way of teaching and learning. Monday, March 30th, we will kick off our alternative learning experience that may involve using the internet to connect to teachers, or packets of work to help keep our students engaged in their educational journey. It is important for all of you to know that, as educators, we care deeply for each student we have the privilege to work with. It is also important for you to understand that this process will continue to evolve.

As families, you have our deepest appreciation for the support you give to our district. I have said many times that what sets our school district apart from others is a sense of family. We are all part of #PointerNation! Thank you for continued support and for helping us by being the frontline for the educational system that we now find ourselves embarking on.

For many of you, there are no issues with internet or cellular connections. Yet other families are struggling to get good connections. We have been working with Kajeet, an internet hotspot provider, to make it possible to get connected from home. As you can imagine, every other school district in the state is in the same position we are. Our middle/high school librarian, Kris McCoy, has been doing a fantastic job helping get more devices ready for distribution. Both Kris and our elementary librarian Micki Uppena have been working with staff members to give them multiple tools to make connections with students.

The Mineral Point Unified School District does not have any experts in online learning. There is no manual to turn to that spells out the best way to continue education under these circumstances. What we do have is a dedicated collection of teachers and support staff that will do everything they can to help provide the best possible education we can into your homes.

With all of this in mind, we would like to suggest a few things that may help everyone in the education process. First, have a place for your student(s) to work. It does not need to be a formal setting, but some place that "school" will happen on a daily basis. Second, set a schedule. The school day should not be from 8:00 - 3:25 (**and if it is, please reach out to your child's teacher**). Many parents are still working so find a time that will work for your family. Next, taking breaks is okay for children. Even when they are at school there are class changes that allow for movement. Finally, let us know how we can help. We are in this together, and together we will get through this time.

I know the teachers miss your children and the day to day interaction that comes with education. I am sure everyone at school would love to see pictures of the students on their "First Day" of alternative learning. Feel free to send them to Joelle Doye, our Communications Director, as a way we can help stay connected to each other.

Trust me when I say your child(ren), our students, are the most important people I have the privilege of working for. Take care of yourselves and your families!

Mitch Wainwright
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