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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. I know that we work all the kinks out with your diligence and support and our drive and 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, please, call us or email the office or better yet, the teachers with information necessary for to 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 it is 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).

I know the delivery of the “hard packets” to Zia Tribal Educational offices takes place after 3:00 PM on Wednesdays. The collections of that work is done on Monday mornings via the food drop off. It is very important that the work is done and tuned back in for teacher viewing on that Monday. It is from teacher review of the material as to whether the students have mastered or understands the material. Jemez Pueblo students work is dropped off Thursday mornings via the meal drop off. The work is collected on Monday mornings during the food drop off. All other Jemez Valley students will review their “hard packet” on Thursday morning as well, with the pickup time being Monday mornings during the food distribution time. It is very important that the work is done and tuned back in for teacher viewing on that Monday. It is from the teacher’s review of the material as to whether the students have mastered or understands the material.

It is critically important that the students and you understand that attendance in both the morning time slot and the afternoon time slot is required. Attendance in either time slot does not mean that the other time slot is an

option or not necessary. Both times are essential to the delivery of instruction for the students “total” learning experience.

I will be providing a bi weekly type letter for us to stay in contact during this interesting, challenging and turbulent time of COVID.

Sincerely

Scott Meihack
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