

June 1, 2020

Families,

It's hard to believe that we are in what would have been our last week with students before summer break. Yet here we are tying up as many loose ends as possible during remote learning before having a long needed break for everyone. We know that this hasn't been the most ideal way to end a school year, but I have to thank a lot of people that has made the fourth quarter/end of the school year a big success.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the students and parents for being flexible, engaging, and supportive during remote learning. This was a new process for all of us and without your help and support we wouldn't have been as successful ending the school year on a positive note.

Second, I would like to thank the teachers and administrators for their efforts both in and out of the instructional day. We realize remote learning was at times difficult and a struggle, but I know our staff never quits and will do whatever it takes to make the best out of a difficult situation.

Third, I would like to thank Crystal and Rebecca for leading our food distribution during the, "Stay at Home" order. We know parents were out of work and food could become scarce at times, which is why they stepped up to help our families out and feed our children. We will continue our food distribution over the summer with food pick-ups available Monday's from 9-12 each week. If you can't make that time or day, neighboring districts such as Beach Park and ZBTHS will also continue food distribution and you may pick up food at one of their sites. Please check their web site for more information.

Fourth, I would like to thank our board of education who has been both supportive, who has volunteered to help when needed, who has been understanding that this was a fluid end to the school year and that everyone associated with the district was doing their very best.

Finally, I would once again like to thank North Prairie's 8th grade class of 2020. Mrs. Nottingham as well as all of our teachers wanted to make sure we celebrated the graduating class as a way to show we care and are with each of you as you move up becoming high school students. From Mrs. Shogren ordering and picking up the, "Congratulations Graduate" signs, to Mr. Traskaski helping out with the graduation video, to Mrs. Nottingham herself putting together a memorable graduation night recognizing all graduates in our first and hopefully last, remote graduation.

Thank you to all!

Now for some business related items as we close out the 2019-2020 school year...

- Report cards for K-8 students will be placed in their materials box and may be picked up at the designated time per grade level. Junior high report cards may also be accessed on

TeacherEase. Any parent that has a question regarding the report card, or would like a hard copy sent to them, please contact your individual building principal.

- Many may know that Diane Watson one of North Prairies 5th grade teachers will be retiring at the end of this year. We know this isn't the way anyone would want their last year of teaching to end, but her years of service with our children will not be lost or forgotten. She is a true testament to what it means to be a Winthrop Harbor teacher by being there for her class before, during, and after remote learning. She will defiantly be missed, and we plan on celebrating her time with the district at a later date. Thank you for your service to the district and community, we truly appreciate YOU!
- A committee is currently being put into place to identify options for students to return to class in the fall of 2020. I anticipate that we will have multiple plans to share with the board of education, parents, and staff in the very near future. We also realize that the decision to return still hinges on the safety of our children and the governor's response to COVID 19. Be on the lookout for more information regarding, "Returning to Class 20-21."
- As previously stated, meals will be made available to all children under 18 throughout the summer beginning on Monday June 8th.

As always, it's important we continue to work together and support our students. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCartney