

Dear Parents,

We are now in week three of remote learning at North Star. We wanted to reach out to share an update and hopefully some encouragement for you all.

Last night the Idaho State Board of Education (SDE) voted to extend the soft closure of all schools in Idaho until the end of the school year with a caveat that would allow reopening should certain criteria be met (such as local social distancing lifted). These criteria are currently being written and will be approved by SDE Board next week.

Therefore at this time, North Star will continue in remote learning mode until the end of the school year.

This is HARD. On so many levels. We want you to know that we recognize the various difficult challenges we face from the perspective of our teachers, students and parents. We hope to provide some reassurance for all of our stakeholders.

North Star is doing everything we can to provide a continuous education for our students. We love teaching, we believe in the value of education, and we want to continue to engage our students' minds and spirits so that they can grow and thrive, even during this difficult time.

However, as moms and dads ourselves and educators and leaders of this amazing school, we believe that this is a time where flexibility, grace and empathy are of the utmost importance. If your child doesn't get their assignments done that day, but is healthy, loved and laughs out loud at least once YOU ARE WINNING. Our children (really all of us) need these basic fundamental things right now more than ever. We know there will be technology issues, there is no way around that. We know that some days will be better than others. And, we have to know that it is okay. We can all take a deep breath and know, we are in this together and the children we all love will be okay!

Until we hear otherwise from the State Department of Education, we do need your student to log in each day in order to "count" it as a school day. That said, we need to walk the fine line between over and under doing what learning is required. Our teachers are working diligently on finding that line, but it can often be different for each child and their circumstances. Here is our advice to you and our teachers: ***Do what you can. Right now, good enough is okay.***

North Star is committed to supporting you and your student. We may be separated physically, but we are just a phone call, email or zoom chat away. In addition to our teachers, counselors and ourselves, we have paras and office staff willing to jump in and assist when needed. Please reach out to us or your teacher if you need extra help. We will adjust and support in all the ways we are able to within the state requirements, taking every situation into account.

We will keep you posted on any new developments from the state that could impact us.

We are here for you.

Sincerely,

North Star Administrative Team (NSAT)  
Shay Davis, Will Bogdanoff, Melissa Andersen, Joanna O'Donnell