



Mountain Home Public Schools

MHPS Parents and Guardians,

I want to start by thanking you for your partnership as we navigated an incredibly challenging spring. It is my hope that your families are healthy and happy as we enter our summer break. I imagine this summer will feel like a real break for you, because most of you were juggling your everyday responsibilities along with being stand-in teachers.

Next I want to echo the sentiment I heard from so many parents this spring: our teachers are awesome! We had teachers reading to donkeys, teachers modeling how to shoot bows and arrows, and every single teacher in our district got out of their comfort zones to pull off what might have seemed impossible on day one.

I do hope you'll all take some time this summer to decompress after a hectic, unusual 9 weeks, but I also want you to know how we'll be spending our summer at MHPS. We will be preparing for next school year -- just like we do every summer. We'll be working to refine our instruction, identifying focus areas, planning for growth, and updating policies and procedures. But we will be doing all those things while looking through a different lens.

Next school year **WILL** be different at MHPS. There is no way around it. Our goal is obviously to continue on-campus instruction beginning in August, but if the state mandates we continue off-site instruction in August, I want you to know we will be prepared for that. Our educators will be provided with training opportunities this summer that will help them implement high-quality, standards-based instruction from a distance.

If we are able to return to school on campus in August, I want you to know we will be prepared to offer any student in our district the opportunity to take advantage of our FlexPath program. FlexPath is a program that we implemented four years ago to allow students to learn from home. Our educators will receive training opportunities this summer to create classrooms where high-quality, standards-based instruction is able to go on simultaneously between a face-to-face delivery system and a digital delivery system.

This FlexPath model will also be helpful to our students, parents, and educators in the event that we must transition quickly from on-site to off-site instruction due to illness spread. We plan to be prepared to make these transitions if necessary, and we plan to have continuity of instruction during school or building closures.

As we know more from the Governor and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, we will provide you with updates, but for now I just wanted you to know that you will have high-quality educational options for your children at MHPS next year. Thank you for trusting us with your children. They are so important to us, and so is the partnership we have with you all.

Thank you,

Dr. Jake Long
Superintendent