

NWCS - Letter from Mr. Ray Ricks

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on behalf of

Jana Johnson <jjohnson@nwcs.org>

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To: Jana Johnson <jjohnson@nwcs.org>



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NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS, INC.

April 2, 2020

Dear Northwest Christian Families, Students, and Staff:

I want to start by saying a hearty thank you to every Northwest Christian community member for your support, encouragement, and resiliency through the initial COVID-19 remote educational learning launch! The last two weeks have been a whirlwind and we are rapidly approaching spring break. The purpose of my letter is to give you some updates.

Surveys/Feedback

Thank you to those who have taken the time to fill out your grade level surveys this week. The last grade level elementary surveys were sent out this morning. If you haven't had an opportunity to give us feedback, please take a few minutes to complete those surveys. Beyond the survey, please feel free to reach out to your teachers and/or principals for on-going feedback to make this process successful.

Spring Break

**Spring Break	April 6-10	Monday - Friday. No School. Enjoy!
**Teacher Curriculum Day	April 13	Monday - No School for K-12 students.

Teachers will be meeting (virtually) to discuss the best practices for remote educational learning, reviewing all the feedback surveys, and prepping for the next round of remote learning. Students will **NOT** have school on Monday, April 13.

**Back to "Remote" School	April 14	Tuesday - K-12 students.
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Exception: NWCS Homeschool Program will resume with remote learning on Monday, April 13.

April 24th Date

As of right now, the statewide school closure runs from **Tuesday, March 17** through **Friday, April 24**. We are fielding questions daily regarding new possible information or updates on this date. Unfortunately, I do not have any additional information beyond the April 24 date. Depending on the COVID-19 status, Governor Inslee will make any decisions that would potentially impact that date. I will update you as soon I have any new information. In the meantime, State Superintendent Reykdal has encouraged school leaders to consider contingency plans for calendar items, events, and additional remote learning opportunities if the Governor were to extend the closure. Thank you for staying the course through this process. Stay tuned.

Flashback to the Fifties Auction

At this time, the auction has been postponed from the original April 25th date. Please watch for updates on the NWCS website: nwcs.org.

Remote Educational Learning

After spring break, we will be evaluating the surveys to help improve our efforts in remote education. One tangible goal we will enact is increasing our video experience as we attempt to mitigate physical distancing through enhanced virtual connections. In addition to the remote assignments, projects, and on-line learning platforms that were launched on day one, the high school, middle school, elementary, homeschool, and learning center teachers have made great strides with individual, small group, and large group video connections this week. Our staff and students have becoming increasingly more comfortable in virtual settings. And we will continue to grow. Thank you to everyone for adapting!

Community Connections

I am encouraging our staff (and our community) to consider new and creative ways to continue to foster the **relational** and **community** aspect of NWCS remotely. This week, the NWCS High School ASB hosted an online spirit week. Our seniors had a virtual gathering on Saturday. NWCS Middle School as well as NWCS Homeschool both hosted virtual chapels (thank you Zoom!). This is exciting news. We are in the process of actively trying new ideas, new platforms, and trying to explore ways to keep people plugged-in to the NWCS community. If you have gleaned ideas from your church, workplace or through your research on how to appropriately “connect” people during this time (whether students, teachers, families, and/or the NWCS community) please feel free to pass those ideas along to your classroom teacher or principal.

NWCS Informational Videos

Over the course of the next few months, you will see a series of video links on our website and Facebook that showcase and give updates from Northwest Christian. Please feel free to share those. Here is a link to our most current video and we will upload a new video after we get back from spring break.

Prayer Initiative

While this transition has been challenging for everyone, God is not surprised nor shaken. We serve an awesome God. We can know Him, pray to Him “in all circumstances”, and we can trust Him fully. At NWCS we have launched a prayer initiative that involves our board members, administrative team, and staff members. The initiative is simple and has a plan to regularly pray through all the class rosters by name. I would encourage every family to pray for your classmates, your teachers, and for each other. Even through the challenges of COVID-19 and the Stay Home/Stay Safe order, I have talked with many people over the past week that are experiencing a renewed sense of connection with the Lord, their children, friends and family members. Please don’t miss out on these opportunities to play and to pray with your precious children.

Again, I want to say “thank you” to our families for your support of NWCS through COVID-19. I appreciate all of you very much and pray for you regularly. I will send an update after spring break.

Serving together,

Ray Ricks
Executive Director of Education