March 22, 2020

Good Evening Seymour Middle School Community,

Tomorrow we are back to school (sort of)! We are all excited about communicating again with the children and putting into action all the hard work that has gone into our new distance learning. We know many teachers tested equipment and classrooms on Friday...so we should be ready to go!

Please know we are extremely proud of all our staff, as well as their efforts to prepare for, engage with and support our cougars and you during this time. As we noted in our previous email communication, collaboration and flexibility are key to our success as a school community.

As we have shared with you time and time again, our cougars always rise to our expectations. It is most important they understand we still hold these same expectations for them, even though they are not physically in the classroom. To ensure we all have a common understanding, we have included the following (many of which you have already received from your teachers) for you and your student to review before 8:00 tomorrow morning.

- Check in with each of your teachers daily. This could mean just checking and submitting the assignments posted on Google Classroom. We will monitor attendance through work completion and communication.
- Be respectful and mindful of others, the same way you would in your SMS physical classroom space, which includes appropriate language.
- Ask questions if you don't understand. You can email, chat or post a comment to the assignment.
- During meetings and chats, wear headphones if possible, and keep your microphone on mute until it is your turn to speak
- Be aware of your background.
- Refrain from taking pictures, screenshots, or recordings of others on the computer. We were not taking pictures of each other in the physical classroom, so we ask that we continue this practice in our new classroom.
- Treat this as a new adventure. Look forward to your new learning and be prepared to use this experience as a positive.

While we wish we were welcoming everyone back into the building tomorrow, the building itself is not what we need. We need each other, we have each other, we will continue to be here for each other.

Take care,
Jodie Roden and Kathleen Freimuth