



Dear Students, Parents and/or Guardians,

As we continue to battle with what is in front of us, I know that your personal and professional lives are disrupted. We are all affected in unique, yet equally challenging ways by COVID-19 and school is just one consideration for families during this unprecedented time. Your cooperation and understanding during these recent weeks have been greatly appreciated.

COLA's emergency meal service or "Meals on Wheels" started on March 23. For the present time, COLA is delivering today's lunch and tomorrow's breakfast via our school bus routes. This has been occurring between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm, Mondays – Fridays. To adhere to social distancing practices and keep our valuable bus drivers safe, we have asked that you place a container out at your usual school bus pick-up and drop-off location for meal collection. COLA has ordered containers for each family, but they have not yet arrived. Our bus drivers are calling ahead to notify you of your Meals on Wheels deliveries; however, this assumes we have your up-to-date phone number. Please ensure Circle of Life Academy has the correct up-to-date phone number on file by calling our front desk at **218-983-4180**.

Our staff is hard at work putting the finishing touches on our plan to creatively provide students with the quality education they need and deserve. Distance learning starts on March 30. Distance learning packets will be sent out once a week via our bus routes. By April 14, COLA will endeavor to have Chromebooks and WIFI Hotspots in the hands of every student and staff member to access online Google Classrooms, teleconferencing capabilities, and related for a true 21st century distance learning model. The first set of packets will be delivered on Monday, March 30. After the first distribution, the schedule will change to Fridays. The previous week's packet will be collected once a week (Fridays). Collected packets will be stored in a secured location over the weekend until Tuesday morning. Teachers are to be available to students and families from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday – Friday.



White Earth Mental Health will continue to work via telework. For students needing immediate help, please call the Becker County and White Earth Reservation Mental Health Crisis Hotline at **(218) 850-HELP** or **1-877-380-3621**. Another great option for families is to text, **text MN to 741 741**. In addition, COLA's Student Support Team including Dr. Sheila McLeod, Mr. Matthew Meyer, and Ms. Willy Ann Heisler-Hoban are also available via phone call, Facebook, and email.

I want to emphasize that even though school will not look or feel the same as it has in the past, our level of commitment to each student in this school will not change. We are committed to providing a high-quality learning experience for our students even while students are away from school. Currently, we are planning to continue distance learning through April 30 with on-site learning resuming May 5. We will continue to follow both the Tribe and Governor's direction.

We are excited to start this journey together. We know that students and families will have lots of questions. We have established a comprehensive plan for delivering quality education; however, it will not be without challenges. We will work together to address them. Please direct questions/concerns to your teacher first. They will escalate any concerns they cannot address to the building principals. As we all transition together, we thank you for your patience and grace.

I am grateful for this community and this COLA team. It is amazing to see the hard work, support, and the strength of the human spirit that has been evident in our region since the Governor's declaration. I am confident that as a COLA community, we will not only overcome this challenge together, we will thrive in the midst of it and we will be better because of it.

Sincerely,

Jenna Leadbetter
School Superintendent