



Boozhoo COLA Students, Family, and Staff,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy and enjoying the improving weather. As you may know by now, Governor Walz announced that all Minnesota K-12 schools will be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Distance learning will continue to be offered from your child's teacher(s) and school community. While this is disappointing news as we were greatly looking forward to being back together and seeing our students face to face on May 5, the most important focus for everyone right now is to feel safe, connected and healthy. The purpose of this message is to share what this means for Circle of Life Academy.

What will change?

- The governor's announcement also means that all extracurricular programs, athletic programs and community use activities are canceled through the remainder of the academic year.
- Graduation will look different. As a school, we are committed to providing a meaningful way to celebrate our COLA 2020 graduates. Seniors will be contacted for their input within the next week. Stay tuned for alternative graduation plans to be announced soon.
- We will not hold distance learning on May 1 and May 4. The state is designating these days as professional development days to prepare for the remainder of the school calendar year in a distance learning environment which will resume on May 5.

What will not change?

- Our commitment to our students is as strong as ever. We will proceed with the continuity of quality learning for our students through distance education. We have a good start and we will continue to make our distance-learning plan even better in the days ahead.
- Student Meals on Wheels will continue to be distributed Monday through Friday. On April 23, COLA partnered with Shooting Star Casino for meal ordering and preparation.
- We have hope! We will not give up. Even as the disappointment and discouragement threaten, we celebrate with things like #BeTheLightMN on Monday evenings. We turn the lights on at COLA's football stadium each Monday night at 8:20 pm to both recognize our 2020 Seniors and symbolize our hope during a dark time.

We are navigating uncharted waters, and I am so proud of how everyone is stepping up to meet the challenge. Together we will face this prolonged challenge. Together we will put student needs first. Together we will care for our neighbors. Together we will not only endure this challenge, we will thrive in the midst of it. Because we are COLA Strong.

Chi-miigwech and with gratitude,

Jenna Leadbetter
School Superintendent