



Dear Wauwatosa families,

Much has changed in a short period of time in the Wauwatosa School District. We still have a way to go, but I want to thank you for doing what you can to find time to support your children in this learning. We certainly appreciate that this has not been easy on anyone, but we know continuing to have your children engaged in learning is important for many reasons.

While we have had a virtual school operating in our district for several years, the change to digital learning for all students is new to us as a school district. We do not have it all figured out yet. Things like workload expectations, timing of classes and homework are all “works in progress.” The discussions and planning that have occurred to launch this transformation have been amazing and will help us as a learning organization for the foreseeable future. One of the ways we will monitor our growth and success in this is to survey students, staff and parents. When you receive a survey from the school district please take the time to give us needed feedback. Our adjustments and changes will be based on information we receive from those surveys. Parents of elementary aged students will receive a survey on Friday, April 3rd and all families can expect the first district wide survey late next week.

One of the tools that we are using is an online communication software called Zoom. Zoom allows our teachers and students to stay in more personal contact than just email or voice. Videoconferencing is something we are taking advantage of in the Wauwatosa School District in many different areas. [This link](#) will share some guidelines we are using to help our staff in working with students. It includes what is allowable, as well as, what should not be done using Zoom.

- Along with the information in the link above, here are several other considerations:
 - Students should participate in a location in their home that is accessible to others. All adult participants should participate from an appropriate work space like an office or dining room table.
 - Everyone should be dressed in what is considered appropriate for school.
 - The camera should be set so that the person’s face, head and shoulders are in view.

I continue to be amazed at how well our teachers and staff have adjusted to our new normal. I know it has not been easy for them. We are also grateful to families who are helping us meet the learning needs of our students. We know that balancing everything going on right now is difficult and we appreciate all that you are doing. We also want to remind you that we will not be sending lessons on Friday, April 10th or Monday, April 13th as both are scheduled days off from school.

Sincerely,

Phil Ertl – Superintendent, Wauwatosa School District