



Berenda Elementary

October 2020

## Principal's Message

Hi Broncos,

We are entering our third month of this distance learning year. We have come so far and at the same time often feel like we haven't gone anywhere at all. Although we continue to be confined in our homes for Zoom school, we all look forward to the day when we are back together again.

Our teachers are doing a fabulous job of providing engaging and educational lessons and we all appreciate our students who are logging onto their Zoom lessons and giving their full attention to their teachers. When I join a meeting and see students participating, it makes me very proud of my Broncos.

I want to ask each of you to talk to your children about what they are learning.

Ask to see their assignments. They can show you their STMath or Khan. 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders can show you their Lexia. 6<sup>th</sup> graders can tell you about Imago. There is a lot happening every day!

Ask to see their Google Classroom. They can show you many interesting things inside of their Google Classroom.

Log on and check out their grades at your Aeries Parent Portal. Unfortunately, we have LOTS of students with missing assignments. If you find that your child has missing assignments, talk with them about the importance of their education. Help them understand that even though we are not 'in school', we still need to use this time to learn and increase our future opportunities in life.

If you are having technology issues...give us a call. We will do our best to get you back on Zoom as quickly as possible.

If your child is going to be absent from their Zoom meeting, let the teacher or the office know. (This is just like we do during regular school.) If you don't let us know, then we will be calling you to find out what is wrong and what we can do to help.

Remember, Wednesdays are school days! On Wednesdays, we need students to complete their assigned work. If they do not, they will be marked absent. We still have lots of students who are not completing their Wednesday work.

We are all working hard right now and I want to thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and grace. Be Safe! Mr. Christiansen

## What's coming...

Our next **Learning Packet distribution will be Wednesday, Oct 7 from 11:00-12:15**. This time we have something for everyone. All grade levels will be receiving a 'bag' of learning supplies. Everyone will get a Chromebook sleeve to keep their Chromebook safe. We have headphones for everyone who didn't get one at the beginning of the year. We are also handing out some PE equipment to our students in 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades. And, for many grade levels, we have additional materials to use in our Zoom meetings.

If you can't come during the day, we will also be here from 5:00-5:45 pm to hand out packets and supplies.

**Food distribution day is every Wednesday** from 11:00-12:30. All you have to do is drive into our parking lot, open your trunk, and drive out the other end.

Quarter 1 ends on Oct 16 and **report cards will be mailed home on Oct 23**. Please help your child by checking their grades on your Aeries Parent Portal account.

We will be holding **Parent/Teacher Conferences** beginning Oct 26. These meetings will be held via Zoom. If you don't know how to Zoom...your child will be able to help you. They have become experts! 😊 More info to follow from your child's teacher.

## Event Highlights

We want to continue one of Berenda's newest traditions - Our Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Each year has gotten more and more spectacular and I can't wait to see your creations this year! We may not be able to bring our pumpkins to school, but that doesn't mean we can't decorate a pumpkin and share our creativity. Start thinking of those ideas now and we will get you the rules and regulations soon.

## Student Health & Wellness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends children 2 years and older (who do not have difficulty breathing and who are able to remove the covering on their own) should wear a cloth face covering in public settings and when they are around people who don't live in their household. This is especially important when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. It is understandable that children may be afraid to wear a cloth face coverings at first. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers a few suggestions to help make them seem less scary to children.

- Have the child look in the mirror with the face coverings on and talk about it together.
- Put a cloth face covering on the child's favorite stuffed animal.
- Show your child pictures of other children wearing cloth face coverings.
- Practice wearing the face covering at home to help your child get used to it.

These suggestions may help face coverings seem less scary and help your child become more comfortable wearing them.