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Monday, April 6, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

As we begin the 4th and final quarter of the year, we want to take this opportunity to thank each family for your extra effort and assistance in the transition to online education. We are committed to providing a quality education that meets the needs of our families and individual students. We thank you for your prompt communication and hard work to help us do just that. When we began this process three weeks ago, we had no idea how long it would last. It seems safe, at this point, to assume that we have weeks of online learning ahead of us. With that in mind, we'd like to clarify expectations regarding assignments, grading, student participation and attendance as you find a new normal.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Communication is key. Thank you for clear communication thus far about any limitations and needs your student may have. At this point, we trust that you have a system and schedule in place that will assist your student in completing assigned work, turning in work to teachers, attending scheduled online class sessions and moving forward at the pace set by each teacher. Please continue to be in communication with your child and his/her teachers as we complete this marking period.

Learning, growth and assessment are very important. In most cases, this is not simply a time of extended review. We desire to continue to cover the material needed to finish the year well and prepare students to advance to the next grade level. As we prepare and present new information, we will be maintaining a variety of instructional methods and grading opportunities for students as they manage learning from home. Please be aware that these grading opportunities are very important and allow us to assess your student's progress. It is vital that your child stay on track so that teachers are fully aware of any academic struggles or need for assistance. Each teacher will communicate his/her expectations for each subject.

Family situations are unique. We understand that you may find yourself in a more difficult situation due to having all your children at home, job changes and the increased need for motivation, organization and time management in your students. We want to make sure that we are providing students with manageable opportunities to demonstrate their learning. We encourage you to be as much a part of your child's education as possible during this time to help make sure that they are able to accomplish what is asked of them.

Your relationship with the classroom teacher is vital. Teachers will be providing clear expectations to students via google classroom, email or other methods of communication. Please respond promptly if you are contacted directly, as a teacher may need your assistance with your child. Students need to be completing assignments and if a student is choosing to not do assigned work, he/she will receive failing grades. Please remember that older students who have jobs should maintain work schedules that allow them to complete their school work first.

Online education is real education. While we are still learning and improving as online educators, we are confident in our ability to provide a high level of quality education. Any limitations in access should be communicated immediately, as there are solutions available. At this point, we are trusting that each family has in place the resources necessary for their student to succeed.

We are so grateful for each of our patron families. Thank you for entrusting your students to us! We are thankful for each one of them and continue to pray for each family as you adjust to changes and find a new normal in online and at-home education. We are here for you and our teachers are working tirelessly to do the best job they can for each class and each student. Thank you for walking with us and allowing us the privilege of educating your child(ren). May God be glorified in the continued educational progress and efforts of each part of the BMS family.