

Parents and Guardians of Learning Center North and West Students,

After much thought and careful consideration, we will be altering the School Year Calendar. The North and West Campus will be taking an extended Holiday Break between the already scheduled time off for Thanksgiving and New Years. Learning Centers West and North (Kg-23 students) will be out of school beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving and will return to school on January 11th in-person with ONE remote day on January 8th, otherwise WE WILL NOT BE DOING REMOTE LEARNING during this time. Teachers and paraprofessionals will not be working during this time either. Please think of it like summer break. Your student's teachers will communicate with you during this week's parent-teacher conferences on what might be good academic exercises to continue over the Extended Holiday Break. BUT we fully anticipate when we return to school in January, that your student will have the BEST chance at a full academic and behavioral year of growth.

We have been back in session since August 20th, 2020! Our first quarter was amazing and filled with great experiences even during this COVID impacted time. We still feel the learning centers are safe places to be for our students. Our students' lack of positive cases shows that to be true. But unfortunately, as I have indicated with each letter that has been sent home, the number of quarantines we have had to issue to our staff due to Close Contact tracing warrants us to make this change to our calendar.

Each day we are reorganizing classes and schedules to cover the classes. So far we have been able to keep up and keep our doors open. But each day we are literally just a case away from having to shut down and move to a remote learning environment for all. While this is exactly what we did upon the Governor's Executive Order in March, we have learned a lot about Remote Learning and our students. For some of our students, it works very well but for many, the technology challenges trigger our students' behaviors. Additionally, some of our kids need physical assistance and extra tutoring when learning in remote environments, which is clearly not available in our current status.

Our staff love your children and want what is best. I am charged to make decisions like this each day to not only care for the physical wellbeing of our kids, which was occurring and will continue to occur this week. But also, it is my job to ensure we can provide a separate facility for academics and all of the related services your children, and quite frankly without the staff to do so, we need to make this change in the calendar, asap!

The 19 instructional days we will now be out of school in November, December and January will be moved to JUNE. A revised calendar will be sent out as soon. But in the meantime, please mark your calendars, June 29th will be our students in Kg-23, last day. We are literally just pushing pause. Your student will get all of their services outlined in their IEP. Again we are just taking part of our summer break and moving it to now, a late fall and early winter break. We know for many of you this calendar change will prove to be difficult for your home schedules. But I am afraid we are headed that way anyway if we have to shut down to go to a Remote

Learning environment. This way without the requirement of school attendance for the extended Holiday Break, we hope you will find a more flexible way to alter your home schedule.

This Thursday is Parent-Teacher Conferences, please let your child's building administrator/principal know if you have any questions. Thursday (11/19) will be the last student day until we resume after break on January 8th (by phone or online) and then back in-person on January 11th. Just a reminder 11/20 was already a scheduled staff Professional Development day.

Here are just a few more items of interest:

- IF your student is already a Remote Learner, your student will resume remote learning when the calendar resumes on January 8th. They will have an extended Holiday Break as well.
- IF your student is a Remote Learner and you wish that they return on January 11th to an in-person environment, please notify your building principal.
- Your child's home school has been made aware of this calendar change. There is nothing you need to do further.
- Transportation will know not to pick up your student until January 11th, if they are a bus rider.
- If your child's IEP is due during the time we are on extended Holiday Break, one of our administrators will be reaching out to you. You may attend the meeting online or in-person.
- All mental health services will continue as they do in the Summer Months, as directed by your child's mental therapist.
- All other therapies that are school year based will continue once we resume in January.

Parents and Guardians, please know this we know COVID has taken its toll on all of us! We encourage you to reach out to your building principal if you have any questions. If you need to speak with either Mr. Will Coutts, Director, or me, we are happy to talk with you! You and your child are important to us, so are our staff...we need them both back in the building in order to do what we do best!!