



Jonathan R. Graf, Principal

April 23, 2020

Dear Vernfield Families:

On behalf of the teachers at Vernfield, I want to thank you for the efforts that you have taken to continue the education of your children. You are working against tremendous obstacles, yet you have taken time to convey the importance of learning to your children!

I know I speak for everyone at Vernfield when I share that we would like nothing more than to welcome students to our classrooms every day. Governor Wolf's order to close schools for the remainder of the academic year has dashed our hopes of being able to come together again. While we understand that the Governor's order is meant for the protection and well-being of residents of the Commonwealth, we are disappointed that we will not have normal closure to the school year with our students.

I am tremendously proud of the work that our teachers are doing to make At Home Learning possible for students. Please know that the teachers and I are working on a platform which will allow for some face-to-face interaction between students and their teacher. Please look for further details on this exciting opportunity in the coming days!

With this letter, I would like to share an important message from Souderton Area School District regarding student grading for the third trimester:

- As found in the district's Continuity of Education Plan (<https://www.soudertonsd.org/parents-students/at-home-learning/continuity-of-education-plan>), formal Third Trimester progress reports will not be issued this year. Parents of each elementary student will instead receive a brief summary report, via e-mail, from the child's teacher at the end of the school year in June. These communications will provide anecdotal summaries of each student's progress with At Home Learning between March 16th and the end of the school year. Students are encouraged to participate in lessons and complete assignments from their teachers but will not be penalized for work they are unable to complete. Please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for more information about how the District is adapting to the closure.

Our message at Vernfield, since the beginning of the closure, has been "Students should get done what they can, when they can." This continues to be our message to families. As mentioned in previous communication, please do not feel pressure to engage your children in learning for hours-upon-hours each day. We know that "regular school hours" simply are not possible given various family responsibilities. Take time to focus on learning when it is most convenient for your family. Please remember, your child's teacher continues to be available for support with At Home Learning. Your child's teacher is just an e-mail away!

Best wishes to your family for good health and well-being. There is not a day that goes by that the teachers and I are not thinking about our Vernfield family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Graf