

Principal Message – September/October 2020

Although almost everything is new or different, the school year is off to an excellent start! The students are still very excited, and I'm seeing wonderful learning taking place each day in the virtual environment. The students have learned many of the routines and digital learning platforms. You would think the students have had more experience with Distance Learning. The staff works hard each day to make sure all learning is exceptional and that the school runs smoothly. I have observed in a number of classrooms, and I can say that I am very impressed and proud of the learning I see each day.

Even though we are in Distance Learning, the middle school ASB is hard at work. Under the direction of Mr. Missan, the ASB has planned a number of themes Fridays that students can participate in the virtual environment. Some of the themes are Eagle Pride day, jersey day, and crazy hair day. The students are hard at work trying to design campus activities when we return for the modified traditional program.

The students have done very well in the new version of Distance Learning. They are attentive and engaged in the lessons. Participation is high and that is great to see. Again, we are trying to mirror school as much as possible, and it seems that we are finding a rhythm. I want to thank all the students and families because they have put forth great effort as we have adjusted to the new normal.

I want to take a moment to thank the District personnel who provide ancillary assistance to SRTMS. Without their help, there is no way that the school would have started off so well. The untold hours of extra time that was taken behind the scenes is truly appreciated.

In October, we will continue with our focus on improving student learning outcomes through our Professional Learning Community (PLC) structure. We are working through professional literature, student data, and examining teaching practices all with the goal of improving student learning outcomes. You never really end the PLC process, but we hope to create a better cycle of continuous improvement.

We are also looking for ways to incorporate both Red Ribbon Week (October 26-30) and Halloween activities into our learning. We feel these two events will help engage the students and provide avenues to build relationships, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Lastly, in this time of continual adjustments, communication, and relationship building remain a focus at SRTMS. It was nice to hold the first virtual Coffee with the



Principal. I will continue my practice of high levels of communications, through my various channels. My video updates, that were popular in the spring, will continue. You'll see them on the website and the SRTMS Facebook page at least twice a month, if not more. Lastly, I post to Twitter daily now, as a way to keep everyone informed.

We will continue to soar high in the face of the challenges each day, and we will do it together as a family.