December 17, 2020

Dear Viking F-A-M-I-L-Y (Students, Parents & Staffulty):

Are you ready for Lesher’s GRAND RE-RE-OPENING, our third 1st day of school? 😊 We sure are! We know that our community has been through many transitions, going from Phase 1 Remote learning 1st quarter, to Phase 3 Hybrid learning 2nd quarter and ending, once again, in Phase 1 Remote learning these past 3 weeks. 2020 has been quite the year to say the least and we are thankful that for every downside, there’s an upside!

Jon Gordon, bestselling author and keynote speaker, shared the following, “Doctor, James P. Gills Jr., is one of the most amazing people on Earth that you’ve probably never heard of. He has performed more lens implant and cataract operations than any ocular surgeon in the world. A prolific author, he distributes 40 thousand free books a month, many to prisons around the country. As an athlete, Dr. Gills is the only human on Earth to have completed a record setting six Double Ironman Triathlons, the last one in his fifties! For the uninitiated, yours included, take a full Ironman triathlon and double the distance of each event. That means a 4.8-mile swim, a 224-mile bike ride, and a 52.4-mile run. The advice Dr. Gills gave Jon Gordon was, ‘You need to talk to yourself, instead of listening to yourself.’”

We take that advice from Dr. Gills and choose to be optimistic and to positively “talk to ourselves” as we look into 2021 and see the potential for students to return to in-person learning more frequently and see more extra-curricular opportunities on the horizon. It will get better. We will continue to do all we can to provide great learning experiences for our community while doing so in a safe and responsible way. We’re not just about getting students and staff back on campus, we’re about keeping them here, and we need your help to make that happen.

Per PSD’s announcement on Tuesday, 12/15/20 Lesher Middle School will begin 2nd semester in Phase 1 Remote learning on Tuesday, 1/5/21 through Friday, 1/15/21. We’ve attached Lesher’s schedule for these 7 Monday – Thursday synchronous days and 2 asynchronous Fridays. We heard families wanted more contact with teachers, but less screen time so we are asking teachers to focus more on their synchronous online time with students and less on asynchronous work outside the class schedule. So, the amount of time students are synchronously online with their teachers Monday – Thursday will be the same as how we are ending 1st semester. We will continue to be cognizant of the time students are in front of their laptop screens. If students get their work done during designated class time, they should not have much work to do outside of class time. Fridays will continue to be reserved for asynchronous learning, small group work, one-on-one meetings, extra-curricular offerings and teacher office hours, planning, and grading.
Per PSD’s announcement on Tuesday, 12/15/20 Lesher Middle School will transition to Phase 3 Hybrid learning beginning on Tuesday, 1/19/21 through TBD. We’ve attached Lesher’s schedule for these Monday – Thursday Hybrid days and asynchronous Fridays*, with the exception of Week 3 and Week 7 Fridays.

- Mon.-BLUE (Group A), Tue.-BLUE (Group B), Wed.-GOLD (Group A), Thu.-GOLD (Group B)
- Fri.-Alternating BLUE/GOLD Asynchronous Learning/Small Groups
- *When there is not school on a Monday, i.e. 1/18-MLK Day and 2/15-Presidents’ Day, the Mon.-BLUE (Group A) will move to a Fri.-BLUE (Group A).

See the attached Quarter 3 Schedule Overview or our Lesher website calendar for a visual of the above learning days. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you and have a great winter break!

Your friendly, neighborhood Lesher F-A-M-I-L-Y... Forget About Me I Love You!

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