



Dear State Senator Kooyenga,

Thank you for your continued support of our children in the State of Wisconsin. The last few months have brought new challenges. We wanted to share the story of how Elmbrook responded to our ongoing public health emergency.

Several factors contribute to our ability to deliver a quality, virtual education.

1. All students in grades 2-12 had access to a district-issued chromebook device. If those devices are in need of repair, a process has been established to facilitate a touch-free exchange of equipment.
2. Most of our staff and families have internet access at home. We have deployed 20-25 hotspots to families without access, and others have benefited from the extension of free access by internet providers like Spectrum. While total bandwidth in a home may be a challenge with several remote workers/students, few homes are without some kind of access.
3. Students in grades K-1, where we do not have a 1:1 ratio of devices, have access to other devices at home. For those that do not, or where it is not reasonable to share with siblings, we are providing classroom devices (ipads or chromebooks) to those families.
4. We are fortunate to have access to several learning management platforms. While our intent is to standardize on those platforms next Fall, our teachers are delivering content in Canvas, Google Classroom, or Seesaw.
5. We are also fortunate that several technology providers have made their tools and platforms available to staff and students for free. Applications such as Zoom for meetings, PearDeck and others can enhance our approach to teaching and learning in the short-term. Their availability also allows us to evaluate several tools in a short time period, as we determine what tools and technologies may be considered essential in an ongoing virtual learning environment.
6. We are also fortunate that all teaching staff, many instructional assistants (including all special ed), and many office and support staff employees had access to a district laptop. This has insured a common experience amongst staff and students.
7. We have worked with approximately 900 families of students with special education and 504 services to create plans to support virtual education. In some situations this has meant 1:1 and small group instruction for students, in other situations it is collaboration with families to support students access to virtual education. The impact of the closure due to the ongoing public emergency will need to be assessed upon the end of the closure which will impact next steps.
8. Elmbrook is the home of the innovative Launch program, a collaborative career-based learning experience. LAUNCH is engaging in over 100 company and non-for-profit projects driven from the community with professional mentors this spring. In addition, we have over 50 private sector professionals who will help with remote guest instruction, mentoring, and project reviews.

A few facts that provide context to the shift to virtual learning:

- 56,000 Google Meetings (55,000 more than previous month)
- 286,000 Google files have been created (45,000 more than previous month)
- 2.6 Million emails sent/received - (600,000 more than previous month)
- The number of Google Classrooms doubled from 200 to 420

As you know, we have a large number of students accessing college while in high school. We have coordinated with local Colleges and Universities to ensure the continued education of 100% of our students involved in dual enrollment programs. We've ensured that all our students involved in Youth Apprenticeship and students seeking industry certifications will successfully complete their experiences by mid July with the tremendous support of industry.

We average 12,000 active online learning management system participations each week. We communicate with our 1,100 plus employees two times per week while also communicating with our 15,000 parents weekly. We have kept all of our employees employed and on payroll in hopes of contributing to our regional economy. We made the decision to ask our bus company to deliver lunches and meals to 1,000 of our students so they have access to appropriate nutrition. This allowed us to keep our bus company contract whole minus mileage and fuel surcharges.

We share this to provide details to our efforts. We hear fiscal hawks talking about schools saving money on energy, contracted services, and other areas, but please take into account that we are incurring additional costs for food service, technology, special education services, and other areas. In addition, our expected revenues will be lower than budgeted amount due to refunds for our preschool program, fees, and uncollected rental and lease payments. We are training staff with excess capacity through Waukesha County Health on protocols to trace active COVID 19 cases. We have opened our schools to blood centers to host community blood drives regularly resulting in hundreds of units being donated. We donated all unused hand sanitizer, goggles, gloves, and Clorox wipes to our local first responders in hopes of adding PPE capacity. We stand ready to assist.

In addition to stabilizing our payroll during this uncertain time, we have identified shovel ready projects for our local construction industry to begin immediately. This will result in an infusion of over \$20 million dollars into the regional economy without going to referendum. This is part of a planned capital investment realized through a substantial reduction of health care costs and planned savings using designated dollars in our fund balance.

Feel free to share with others as you see fit or reach out to me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Hansen', written in a cursive style.

Mark Hansen
Superintendent