



Dear Welch Team/Family:

This week marks the beginning of a new and unexpected experience for Oklahoma students, teachers and school staff. Although we did not anticipate ending the year this way, we are proud of the distance learning plan Welch Schools developed to allow students to learn from home. We know this change is difficult, and there is sadness about missing or delaying special events and activities. During this time, students and their families can count on Welch Schools to support them, both academically and emotionally.

While this health crisis presents many challenges, it has given us additional opportunities to help one another. In one week, the district's Child Nutrition team served 1,768 meals to local children. Donations from local churches, volunteers, faculty and staff kept the Welch Backpack Program operational, and the school staff assisted in distributing food to 28 students in 14 families. The district donated disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer to both the Welch and Bluejacket Volunteer Fire Departments. Additionally, our staff completed the massive task of developing a distance learning plan in just a matter of days. We, as a board, would like to commend and thank all school employees for their hard work and commitment. Welch Schools has an incredible team.

The next few weeks will unveil a temporary new normal for us all. Kitchen tables will double as classroom/office spaces, and our world will be limited to the walls of our own homes. We would like to thank parents for partnering with the district on this journey. While they will be assisting their children in person, they will not be alone. Teachers will be just a phone call, email or videoconference away.

We are fortunate to serve a community that values public education and understands flexibility is necessary to meet the needs of students. A school is not a building: it is a family of caring, knowledgeable professionals making a difference for students every day. Our district is home to the best, and they will finish the school year strong.

Thank you for your support of Welch Schools.

Sincerely,

Welch Board of Education