Dear Billings Families,

We have had a great day today! It’s so nice to have the kids here, filling the school with joy.

I want to give you an update on things that happened today:
• I met with some Parent Association leaders to discuss our current situation and seek input.
• We have very few families choosing to self-quarantine. Those absences are being treated like a usual absence, with students checking in with teachers and following instructions on Google Classroom.
• We continue to stress handwashing and are making time to prioritize this vital step.
• Rich Green and Dr. Lisa Gralinski, experts in coronaviruses, spoke to our 7th graders today about the spread of COVID-19.
• Teachers continued to work on our distance learning plans.
• Jessie, Rob, and I spoke with each class at class meeting to talk about what distance learning will look like if we must close. The kids had some great questions and took the information very seriously. We also had an opportunity to practice with Google Meet (our synchronous class platform) with most students. The others will practice tomorrow.

I have been asked how parents can help with possible distance learning. You can:
• Make certain your student’s chromebook is in working order and that they have a charger. Please note that students can access distance learning on any computer.
• Talk to your student about taking distance learning seriously. See what they gleaned from today’s meeting and ask them to write down any more questions they may have.
• Let us know if you anticipate technical problems with distance learning. Although we may not be able to solve problems on your end, we will have a better chance of addressing potential problems if we anticipate them. If you have technical questions, please reach out to Jessie. jessiea@billingsmiddleschool.org

We continue to monitor Public Health and the Governor’s recommendations. We look forward to seeing your kids tomorrow!

Thank you.

Catherine

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