



# Gator Bytes

March 25  
2020

## Learning, Leadership and Laughter...The JRG Journey

J.R. Gerritts Middle School • 545 S. John St. • Kimberly, WI • 920-788-7905

### Online Learning MVPs

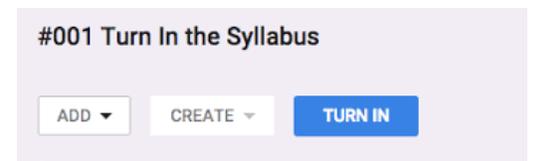
As I write this, it is our first day of online learning. I've talked to about a dozen teachers today, and your children have been focused and on top of their work, and assertive about communicating with their teachers when they need help. Thank you for your help in this transition to online learning. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers with thoughts, feedback, and ideas.

Here are a few important tips and adjustments we are already making, often based on your feedback:

- Please be aware that when teachers call home, the calls will show as "No Caller ID" in order to protect teacher's personal numbers while working from home. In addition, they may also be calling from an online service such as Google Hangouts, with the same "No Caller ID" feature. If you are like me, I often don't take those calls, but in our current situation, it just might be a teacher calling.
- In order to help parents with children in multiple schools, we are working to do a better job identifying which school an email is coming from by adding JRG in the subject line and in the body of the email.
- We're adding a reminder to this newsletter about how you can update your contacts and preferences in Infinite Campus so that you don't miss any communication during school closure.

Here are a few things your child can do to make their online learning work more efficient:

- Teachers are noticing that students are often **forgetting to click the blue "Turn In" button** in Google Classroom when they complete assignments. Teachers can't provide feedback until an assignment is turned in.
- Teachers are also noticing that when students take pictures of their work to submit it, pictures are sometimes taken from too far away or are blurry. Students could consider using a document scanning app on their phone instead, such as Google Drive Scanner or Adobe Scan.



I'm sure you have all read about the importance of following a schedule during online learning, and you've probably seen some good examples. As humans, we all rely on structure and routine to help us devote more of our brainpower to the important things. As you develop a schedule with your child, keep in mind the concepts of Body, Mind and Spirit:

- **Body** - kids need regular physical activity, as well as shorter physical breaks during learning. Getting outside, as long as students practice social distancing, is a great way for students to relieve stress and reset their mind. Short movement breaks during learning are equally important. Regular and healthy meals, along with hydration, are also important for learning. If your family is struggling to provide food, see the meals flyer later in this issue.
- **Mind** - Your child's classroom work should provide a challenge, but not be too easy or overwhelming. If either extreme is happening, ask your child to communicate with their teacher. It's important that they continue to challenge their minds outside of their schoolwork as well, through reading, games, puzzles, etc. The list of possibilities is long.
- **Spirit** - Online learning can be isolating, lonely or even frightening for some. Don't forget to find ways for your child to feed their soul while school is closed. Creative pursuits like art or music, helping others, virtual social opportunities, mindfulness practices, religious practices and more can all help students lessen the weight they are carrying while school is closed. Our counselors are also available to meet online with students.

There will be many questions and situations that arise during this period that we haven't anticipated. To make communication as easy as possible for you, please start by communicating with the relevant teacher. If they can't answer the question or solve the problem, they will forward it on to someone who can. We are working behind the scenes on continuing to regularly communicate as colleagues in our teacher teams. Part of that process includes identifying what's working well and what might not be working and then adjusting our process so we get better.

Together, we'll continue to improve our process for online learning to help your child grow.

Mr. Brinkmann, Principal

### **Keep Contact Information Up To Date**

As online learning is now our daily norm, keeping your contact information up to date is more important than ever.

Please take a moment to log into your [Parent Portal](#) account and ensure **all** of your contact information—home phone, cell phones and email addresses are all correct and current.

Once logged in, from the dropdown menu on the left of the screen, choose “More”. At that point, click on “Family Information”. There you will be able to verify and update phone and email contact information for each individual. Mailing address changes can only be made by the administration office.

### **Attendance During Online Learning**

Please continue to call the school and leave a message if your student is unable to “attend” class. We have 2 lines that messages can be left on—an attendance and a general. Either is fine, as they will both be checked throughout the day.

Attendance will still be taken for each class. If your student has not logged in and completed the attendance assignment for the day, the teacher will contact you to inquire why.

### **Parent Notifications from Google Classroom**

To facilitate distance learning from home, google classroom offers summary notifications for parents and guardians. These summaries include:

- Missing work - Work that’s late at the time the summary was sent
- Upcoming work - Work that’s due that day and the following day, as well as work due in the upcoming week.
- Class activity—Announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers

You are able to set the frequency of these notifications and remove yourself at any time. Once you are assigned to one of your student’s classrooms, you will have access to all of their classes.

If you are **not already signed up** to receive google notifications from classroom and would like to, please contact your child’s TLC teacher and they will get you set up. Please include the email at which you would like to be contacted.

If you have further questions, please reach out to Rob DeLain at [rdelain@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:rdelain@kimberly.k12.wi.us).

### **Chromebook and Technology Assistance**

Thank you for your patience and support as we transition to the world of online learning. We are “here” in the virtual, online sense of that word, to continue to support your child’s learning and social-emotional needs. Please reach out to us with questions or concerns.

If your child is unsure of how to use an app or Chromebook feature, they should contact their teacher. If you are experiencing an issue with district-owned technology hardware, please contact the KASD Help Desk at 423-4357 or [helpdesk@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:helpdesk@kimberly.k12.wi.us).

### **Tips for Success While Learning From Home**

- \* Maintain a schedule.
- \* Designate a space to do work.
- \* Make time for fun—watch a movie, FaceTime friends
- \* Go outside—take a walk, play basketball or catch with siblings, ride your bike
- \* Try something new—make dinner for your family, draw a picture, dance like no one is watching!
- \* Connect with family outside of your home—call your grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles

### **Student Services and Counselor Availability During School Closure**

A majority of services that are provided by the JRG counselors and Student Services will be available through video chat and Google Classroom. Various resources and materials will be uploaded to Google Classroom over the coming days. Please have your student check their email for information about Student Services and Counselor availability.

Please see page 4 for a complete list of available resources and contacts.

# ACCESSING KASD LIBRARIES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES

All Kimberly Area School District libraries are closed to students, parents, and community members.

However, digital access to the KASD libraries is always available! Find us on the KASD website or at [destinydiscover.com](http://destinydiscover.com).



## Print Materials

All due dates on KASD library materials are extended until two weeks after school is back in session. No library materials should be returned until students return to schools.

At this time, the district will not be handling print materials for check-out or check-in, simply due to the threat of viral contamination. We are hoping that this will be an option for the future, and we will continue to explore this possibility.



## E-Books

Digital access to books will be a platform we will continue to grow throughout this process. For students in grades K-3, Tumblebooks provides digital books, audiobooks, and interactive activities. Access this platform by clicking the link on the school's library catalog page. Students in grades 4-12 have access to a curated collection of e-books. 4th-6th graders can access these from their school's library catalog. Students in grades 7-12 can access e-books from their library website or by going directly to [wsdlcwi.libraryreserve.com](http://wsdlcwi.libraryreserve.com)

## Research Access

KASD students have constant access to research resources using their school's digital library catalog. Badgerlink, Webpath Express, PebbleGo, Gale, and other databases are available for each school with links on their school's library catalog page. Some schools have e-books designated specifically for research purposes. These are available through that school's digital library catalog. Students should follow direction from their teacher regarding what research sources to use and at what level. Additional research assistance is available by contacting KASD library media specialist, Erin Wedemeier.



## Importance of Reading

One of the best ways for students to keep up with their education during this unprecedented time is to keep reading. If your family is struggling to access reading materials, please contact a KASD staff member as soon as possible.



If you have any questions about access to the district libraries, please contact Erin Wedemeier, Library Media Specialist, at [ewedemeier@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:ewedemeier@kimberly.k12.wi.us)

## Try Something New—Virtual Exploration!

Oh the places you can go! With this new look at learning, there are so many opportunities to see new things. Many places around the World offer virtual tours and webcams—why not take a trip to the Louvre, visit the Smithsonian, or the San Diego Zoo? Here are a number of opportunities to visit someplace new:

[The Louvre](#)  
[The Sistine Chapel](#)  
[The Guggenheim Museum](#)  
[Yosemite National Park](#)  
[Van Gogh Museum](#)  
[The Great Wall of China](#)  
[The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#)  
[Yellowstone National Park](#)  
[Museum of Modern Art](#)  
[The San Diego Zoo](#)  
[The British Museum](#)  
[The Metropolitan Opera House](#)—Free Streaming performances  
[NASA—visit Mars](#)  
[Visit Hawaii with Google Earth](#)

## Event Updates

### ROCKS Urban Air Vouchers Issued

The ROCKS Urban Air event has been cancelled. Unfortunately, we cannot refund the money as we cannot get the down payment back from Urban Air.

However, we have worked with Urban Air to issue a voucher to everyone who has signed up. Urban Air will print off Platinum-Level vouchers for the students that purchased tickets through Eventbrite. The vouchers will show Platinum-Level access to the park for 1 person. (This is a \$36.99 value) It will read something like this, "Platinum Access, JR Gerritts Middle School, Socks Included."

These vouchers will be good through the end of the year, but may have limits and restrictions for holidays or special events. We will hand out the vouchers once we get them from Urban Air and school is back in session.

Thanks for your understanding!  
ROCKS Team

## **Supporting Student's Social and Emotional Wellbeing While School Is Closed**

While school closure is a necessary response to the COVID-19 virus, it will be a scary, isolating or frustrating time for some of our students. In addition, life doesn't stop just because school is closed, and students might want support from their counselor as events occur at home, in the community, or with friends. The information below will guide you in accessing support for your student, whether from their school counselor or from other sources.

- **How to contact your counselor while school is closed**
  - Parents or students can email or leave a voice message on their school phone. Counselors will be checking their voice messages and will be able to respond either via email or phone
    - Brad Demmin, 7th grade counselor 920-423-4103, [bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:bdemmin@kimberly.k12.wi.us)
    - Shannon Steif, 8th grade counselor 920-423-4156, [ssteif@kimberly.k12.wi.us](mailto:ssteif@kimberly.k12.wi.us)
    -
- **Student Services Google Classroom**
  - Students can meet with a counselor via video chat through Google Hangouts. They have been provided information on how to sign up for meeting times as well as how to Google Chat through their Student Services Google Classroom.
- **Immediate Assistance In A Crisis**
  - If you are in need of immediate assistance and are concerned that your child is at risk for harming themselves or is suicidal
    - Outagamie County Crisis: 920-832-4646
    - Calumet County Crisis: 920-849-9317
    - Winnebago County Crisis: 920-722-7707
    - Call 911
- **Hopeline**
  - Text "Hopeline" to 741741
  - If a student is struggling, wants to talk with someone, is having suicidal thoughts, feeling hopeless, helpless, anxious or depressed. The Hopeline might be a good place to connect with someone that can help. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- **Additional Mental Health Resources**
  - [KASD Mental Health Resources](#)



## SCHOOL CLOSURE MEAL PROGRAM

### LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

Kimberly Area School District will provide meals to all children during school closure. Meals are free to all children 18 years or younger. Children must be present to receive a meal.



**WHO:** Children 18 years or younger

**WHAT:** Lunch and an optional breakfast for the following day

**WHEN:** Starting Wednesday, March 18 until further notice. **Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**HOW:** Pick up or drive up

**WHERE:** Pick up locations include Kimberly High School and Westside Elementary. See locations below

**Westside Elementary School**  
**746 W. Third Street**  
**Kimberly, WI 54136**  
**Front Door Pick up**

**Kimberly High School**  
**1662 E. Kennedy Avenue**  
**Kimberly, WI 54136**  
**Front Door Pick up**

## J.R. Gerritts Red/White Calendar (Working Document) 2019-2020

September 2019				
M	T	W	TH	F
NS	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	Gator Olympics
30				

October 2019				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	SD	NS
28	29	30	31	

November 2019				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	Q	7	8
11	12	13 PT Conf	14 PT Conf	7 Core Academy 7th grade Health Fair
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	NS	NS

December 2019				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
NS				

January 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
		NS	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	Q End/ 7th 8 Core, Community
27	28	29	30	31

February 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	SD	NS
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12 PT Conf	13
16	17	18	19	Student Staff Ball
23	24	25	26	Q
30	31			

April 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	NS
NS	NS	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	Community Governance 7 Academy 8 Core
18	19	20	21	22 Talent Show
NS	26	27	28	29

June 2020				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	Snow Make Up Day, if needed

- NS No School
- Q End of quarter
- Q1 Red - 22  
White - 22
- Q2 Red - 23  
White - 23
- Q3 Red - 20  
White - 20
- Q4 Red - 22  
White - 22