



Alberton Jt School District #2
Dedicated to Academic Excellence

Superintendent Steve Picard
Principal Mica Clarkson
District Clerk Arra Rausch

November 19, 2020

Greetings Alberton School District's students and families,

The 2020 year has been a most challenging and unpredictable time. Alberton School District is thankful for our community's unwavering support and perseverance since last spring. Unfortunately, the current pandemic is hitting Montana and our local area now more than ever. With the holidays quickly approaching, undoubtedly the travel families partake in could create a spike in the amount of positive COVID-19 cases our area may experience. Maintaining the safety and health of our students, staff, and the greater community must be the number one priority. ***We have come to the difficult decision to transition to remote learning starting immediately after Thanksgiving break and through December.***

I assure you that much thought, consideration, and collaboration went into this choice. The Montana Nurses Association recommends this action and in reviewing recent spikes in Mineral County it seems inevitable that the wave of positive cases could hit Alberton and impact the school family in a most negative manner. Ultimately, it is easier for families to plan to have their children in remote learning than it would be to have an unexpected exposure to a person at school with COVID and be forced into an instant quarantine. Continued gathering at the school could contribute to a devastating experience that could lead to loss of family time over the holidays, potential hardships of minimal time to prepare for remote instruction, not having enough substitutes to cover staff, an outbreak of the deadly virus, and in the worse case scenario, potential loss of life. The risks simply do not outweigh the obstacles of remote learning. It is important to point out that Alberton School District serves Missoula County students and many of our staff travel from that area. Missoula is seeing unprecedented growth in their cases and it could easily negatively influence our operations.

Jr. High and High School students are already well rehearsed in learning via remote instruction and will continue to participate in class as they have been all year. Their expectations will not change during the 15 days of offsite education. The elementary will provide a two day packet before students leave on Tuesday the 24th and then we will be delivering project based learning materials to help ease the stress for families during this time. Your elementary student(s) will have at least a weekly Google Meet, virtually face to face, to ensure they are progressing on the assigned work. Jr. High/High School students that require additional supports will also be provided opportunities to check in with their teachers through assigned meets. All teachers will hold office hours in which they will be readily available to answer questions and provide guidance through classwork.

Alberton School District is prepared to deliver breakfasts and lunches for the remote session on Mondays and Wednesdays. If your family wants these meals, you **must return the attached signup by Tuesday, the 24th by 3:00 PM to the main administrative office.**

The school is providing the password to our guest wifi to allow families access from our parking lot to the internet, if need be. The wifi name is Guest-WiFi and the password is P@nthers18. Our Food Pantry will also remain accessible to families by appointment only. Call Ashley at 722-4413 to set up a time if you would like to place an order for food. Please know the school is here for our community and will do our best to meet your needs.

Finally, keep a lookout for a special Holiday Edition of Stay at Home Survivor to keep your students engaged with school and a chance to win some special prizes. Jr. High and High School Students will also have some incentives awarded for good remote attendance.

Alberton School District remains dedicated to academic excellence and we wish all families a safe and happy holiday season. We will keep the community notified if changes occur in regards to the return to onsite learning tentatively planned for Monday, January 4, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mica Clarkson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Mica Clarkson
PK-12 Principal
Alberton School District

Remote Learning School Meal Signup

Family Name: _____

Number of Meals: _____

YES, I want school meals.

NO, I do not want school meals.

Meals will be delivered to students who live on bus routes
Mondays and Wednesdays between 11-1.

Students not on a bus route can pick up meals Mondays
and Wednesdays from 11-1 in front of the high school
building.

Guardian Signature: _____