To: Parents and Students

From: Superintendent Kent R. Larsen

RE: Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Instructional Support and At-Home Learning for the Remainder of the School Year

Date: April 17, 2020

As mentioned in my previous letter to parents written on April 15, the current soft closure for our schools will continue through May 22. This national and global pandemic/COVID-19 has profoundly impacted our communities, schools, employees, students, and families. Our top priorities are to provide support to our students, families, and staff for the remaining five weeks of the school year and to analyze and close learning gaps over the summer and at the beginning of next year. It is essential that we all remain calm and not stress over the things we do not have control over. Let's remember this ordeal is only affecting one quarter. Students will once again return to our schools in a short time, and all will be well.

Due to the complexities associated with this time, coupled with the challenges of providing "modified home learning," we recognize that grading is a concern. We acknowledge that assigning a grade is the sole responsibility of the teacher. Only a teacher has a unique perspective that allows for a grade to be issued. The directive coming from the Utah School Board of Education (USBE) is that no "F" failing grades will be given for the 2020 Spring Semester and that all students be held harmless when it comes to grading. We have modified our grading system to help support this directive. Students must remain dedicated to doing their very best. Our focused priority is on the effort that students engaged with the course work provided. A student that remains highly engaged will receive "A" or "B" – somewhat less engaged "P." Those students who choose to show little to no engagement will receive an "NG." Opportunities will be provided for them to improve that grade next fall under normal school circumstances.

We recognize that all families in our community are under extreme stress. Everyone will need to focus on calm, supportive practices for the remainder of the year. We will continue to reach out to those students who are not engaged and to provide support where we can.

We look forward to the future when we can use the lessons learned from this pandemic to better our education system.

Thank you for your support.