



# Artesia Public Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

I hope this letter finds you staying safe and well during these unusual times! I am sure you are like many of us and still feel a little shocked, surprised, and uncertain as we work to establish new routines and ways of doing things. I personally have been working really hard to learn technology and learn to use it in new ways! I want to reassure you that all of your child's teachers, therapists, and instructional assistants are working hard to provide continuous learning opportunities for your children. I hope that by now you have heard from all of the providers and implementers of your child's IEP and I am hoping that you aren't feeling so overwhelmed by the times we find ourselves in.

I want to share with each of you how the Special Education supports and services on your child's IEP will continue to be in effect for the remainder of the school year. IEP's are still in effect even though our students are now learning from home. Our special education teachers are working with general education teachers to provide activities and suggestions for each student that are aligned with their IEP goals and objectives. For some students, it may be the same packet that everyone is receiving with some accommodations or modifications made to allow them to better access the activities or demonstrate their knowledge of the information.

For other students, the packet may be completely different and provide activities that are more specific in nature with a variety of opportunities to practice a skill. Some students will have special activities that you will help them access via a website the staff developed specifically to meet your child's learning style and needs. The variety of opportunities for students to continue to work on their IEP goals is as varied as the students we serve. If at any time you have questions about lessons or activities, please don't hesitate to contact your child's special education teacher or therapist. Teachers and therapists will be checking in with you on a regular basis but they are also available to you during their office hours to address any difficulties that should come up during the week.

Along with implementing IEP's and continuing to meet the academic needs of our students, we will also continue to conduct IEP meetings for initial placements and for annual review meetings. You will be contacted by one of your child's case managers regarding scheduling an IEP if your child is due for a meeting. To comply with the stay at home order, all meetings are being conducted via phone or on-line computer meeting. You will not need to attend in person so please respond to the invitation.

While IEP's by phone or computer are new to us, please rest assured they continue to serve the same purpose of working together to identify your student's strengths and weaknesses and to identify supports they need to benefit from special education and regular education. I encourage you to be an active and engaged participant in your child's meeting and share any needs or concerns that you may

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have. Communication is vitally important during this time to ensure that we are all on the same page and plan.

In closing, I want to once again stress how important it is for you to communicate with your child's teachers and therapists during this time. They will be contacting you regularly to discuss your child's access to learning opportunities and IEP goals. Please don't hesitate to reach out to them as well for supports you may need as you are working with your child at home. We can't begin to tell you how much we appreciate all that you are doing to support your student at home so they can continue to access the learning opportunities we have provided. Now more than ever, it is a joint effort that will maintain all of the skills we have worked so hard to develop both at home and at school. We appreciate all that you are doing and are available to offer guidance and support to you as well. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at [chanagan@bulldogs.org](mailto:chanagan@bulldogs.org). It is great to be part of the Bulldog family and we are all looking forward to seeing each other in person in the future!

Sincerely,

*Cody Hanagan*

Cody Hanagan

Director of Special Education