

Good afternoon WPS parents,

It's been several weeks since I reached out to share school district news with you. In the time since, I hope you have established a successful continuous learning routine with your children. I know our teachers and principals have been working hard to reach out and engage your students, and we continue to create and provide innovative learning opportunities based on your feedback and needs.

I want to provide you with three key updates today:

- Graduation – Our amazing graduating class of 2020 has been a major focus of our efforts the last several weeks. We are working to make sure they have memorable experiences to commemorate their graduation from high school. Our students told us two things: they want something to happen in May to celebrate, and they want a traditional cap and gown event that should happen before the beginning of August. We are listening!
  - In May, KWCH and KSCW TV stations will work with our district to have a 2020 Senior Celebration for each high school. These unique events will be broadcast on KSCW, and rebroadcast on WPS-TV and on each school's web site and social media. The schedule for each school is available on our web site at [usd259.org/seniors2020](http://usd259.org/seniors2020).
  - In July, we are planning *traditional high school cap and gown commencement ceremonies* for each school, presuming that in-person gathering restrictions have been lifted. Location and dates are being finalized now, and we will have more to share with you very soon.
- New Continuous Learning Opportunities – [Be sure to visit our WPSLearn web site](#) and check out two new resources that have recently been added: **WPSLearn Together**, a new video series featuring WPS teachers sharing short art, PE, music and science lessons that you can share with your child; and **online learning opportunities from local WPS partners** such as Exploration Place, KWCH, Cowtown, Sedgwick County Zoo and Botanica.
- Digital Literacy for Parents – This week we will offer online learning sessions *for parents* that focus on **digital parenting, digital citizenship and connecting with teachers in Microsoft Teams**. This will be an awesome opportunity to get suggestions for how to support your child while they learn and socialize in a virtual world, and it will also help you learn more about the interactive tool (Microsoft Teams) that we are using to connect students and teachers for active learning. Our first session will be offered twice – **Wednesday, April 29, at 10am, and Thursday, April 30, at 5pm**. These learning opportunities will occur on Microsoft Teams, and you can participate at no cost. [Click here to learn more about this great parent learning opportunity!](#)

Thank you for your questions, suggestions and feedback as we have been on this new continuous learning journey together. We have an amazing community of educators, parents, partners and others who continue to come together to support our children – *our future!* Thank you for your continued role in empowering our young people to **dream, believe and achieve!**

Respectfully,

Alicia Thompson  
Superintendent