



May 19, 2020

*Dear Middle School Families,*

*As previously announced, starting on June 1, we will no longer introduce new concepts and instead transition into a final two-week period of targeted support for students who need more time and help to complete their work or to master the concepts that were taught this year. We are making this transition because both our Portland Promise Equity goal and our Remote Learning Plan call for mitigating the widening of the opportunity gaps that some of our students have faced during remote learning, due to lack of access to resources and support outside of school. So what does this mean for your child?*

*If your child has not yet met grade-level standards in the core content areas, they will be invited to attend our “Sun School” from June 1st through the 12th. Students in Sun School will continue to attend remote school as they have been doing, although the structure of their day may change to some degree. During these two weeks, your child’s teachers will focus on providing lessons and support in the areas where they need more time or help to reach the grade-level standard.*

*We believe that all learners can rise to high expectations and that different students need different amounts of time and support to get there. These two weeks are designed in recognition of these beliefs and should be viewed as an opportunity for your child to get extra assistance in the areas where they could benefit from it. Your child will advance to the next grade next year. Sun School is our best effort to help students be as prepared as possible for that transition in the fall.*

*If your child is meeting grade-level standards, they will transition to “optional learning”. We are developing a set of enrichment materials for each week. These will be designed by the Related Arts teachers at your child’s school and by a group of educators who will collaborate on activities for the core content areas. These plans will be posted on the school websites by 8 a.m. on Monday, June 1, and on June 8. Students are not required to complete these activities and they may pick and choose based on their interests. However, for families who want (or need) their child to continue with a structure for the day for these two weeks, this will provide that to you and them. Schools will continue to encourage participation in community building rituals throughout the week. More details on those opportunities and expectations will be coming out from your school as a follow-up to this letter.*

*If your child is participating in a district special education program (e.g. FLS, Breathe), they will continue as usual for the first two weeks of June. If your child has an IEP but is not in a specially designed program, you will hear from the school about whether or not they'll be invited to Sun School if they need more time to work on their IEP goals and grade-level standards. If your child receives ELL services, your school will inform you about whether or not they will continue to work on their language goals and grade-level standards during this time.*

*Schools are planning end-of-year closure activities, as happens each year. The follow-up letter from your child's principal will detail the plans at your school.*

*We appreciate that this transition is new and different. We care deeply about each and every child in our schools and recognize that they all have very different needs depending on who they are, what resources they have, and what they've experienced. Our efforts on Fridays since spring break and during these last two weeks of school are designed to respond to these really different needs across our community of learners.*

*Thank you for all that you are doing during this very challenging time. We recognize that the remote learning model has put a heavy burden on you. As we develop plans for the fall, please know that we are reflecting deeply on what has worked well and what hasn't worked as well during this spring trimester to help inform what we do in the fall.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'X Botana', followed by a vertical line.

*Xavier Botana, Superintendent*