



District Update

News and Information for School District 197 Families

News for June 18, 2020

VIDEO OF THE WEEK



Summer *District Update* Schedule

The news cycle will slow down over the summer but we will still have updates to get out to all of you. With that in mind, this summer we will be sending out two *District Update* newsletters (today and July 16) before resuming our regular schedule at the end of August. We will also send out special announcements as needed. Best wishes to all for a safe and restful summer.

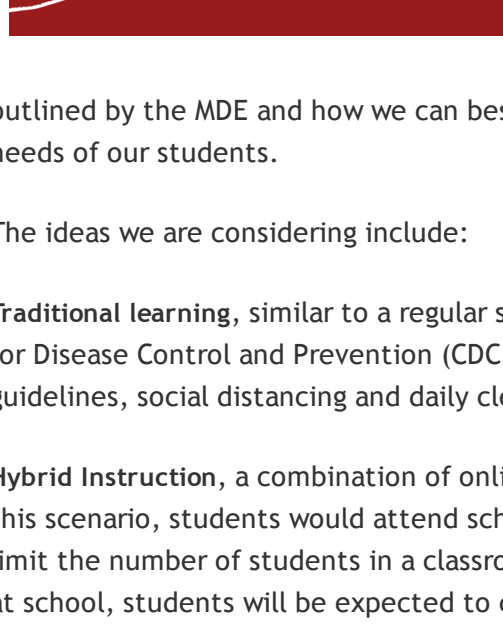
— The School District 197 Communications Department



Construction Update - Summer 2020

Take a closer look at the construction projects happening around our district this summer! Watch Superintendent Olson-Skog highlight the progress being made on projects at Friendly Hills Middle School, Henry Sibley High School, Mendota Elementary School, Heritage E-STEM Middle School, and Somerset Elementary School.

#OurCommunity #OurFuture



Planning for the Fall

As we finish the school year, I know there are a number of questions about what next fall will look like in School District 197. The decisions for what next fall will look like very much depend on what community health and Minnesota Department of Education guidelines are in place to inform decisions about building access.

While we await direction from the MDE, School District 197 staff members are hard at work planning for three possible scenarios outlined by the MDE and how we can best meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students.

The ideas we are considering include:

Traditional learning, similar to a regular school day with precautions based on Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines, social distancing and daily cleaning.

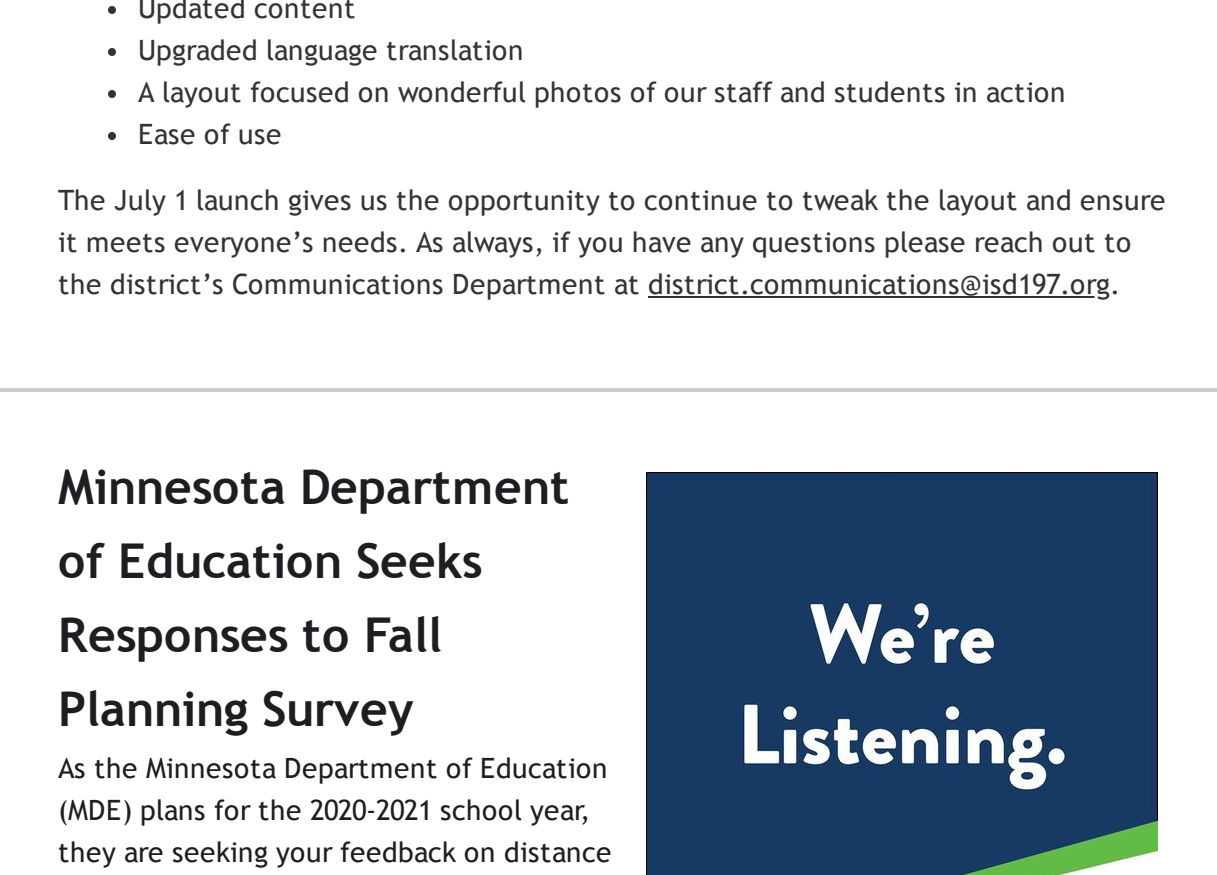
Hybrid Instruction, a combination of online learning and some in-person learning. In this scenario, students would attend school in-person part-time in smaller groups, to limit the number of students in a classroom and allow for social distancing. When not at school, students will be expected to complete teacher-assigned work at home.

Continued Distance Learning, similar to what we've been doing this spring but improved upon based on feedback from families and staff, and information we've learned in the past several months. This feedback was gathered through a series of surveys and focus group feedback not only looking back on distance learning in the spring but what families, students, and staff at all levels would like to see should we be distance learning again in the fall.

Additional direction about how we will proceed in the fall will be provided to school districts later this summer.

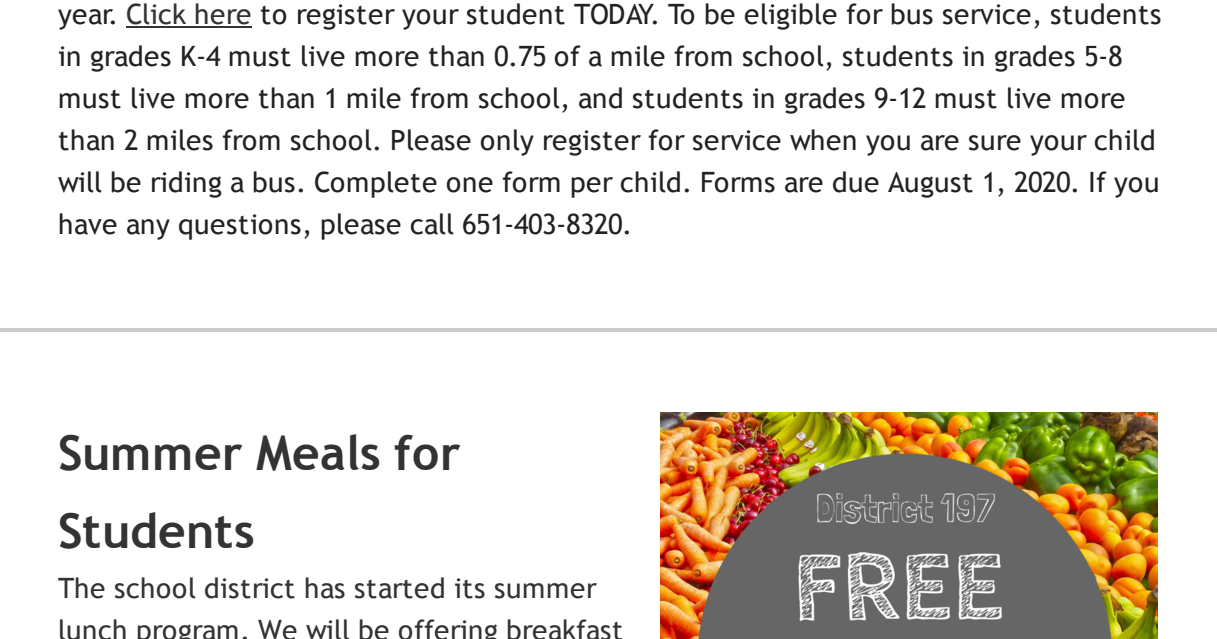
In addition, we have district teams looking at how the three scenarios would impact food service, cleaning protocols, as well as the different needs of students at the early learning, elementary, middle school, and high school levels. We will continue to provide updates on our planning efforts throughout the summer. These updates will be shared through a variety of communication channels including district and school websites, social media, and email, phone, and text notifications.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our surveys thus far and/or participated in a focus group. We are fully committed to designing an educational plan that best serves the needs of our students regardless of which scenario is eventually chosen by the Minnesota Department of Education.



Friendly Hills 6th Grade Celebration

Since this year's annual 6th Grade Celebration at Friendly Hills Middle School couldn't be in person, staff members opted to host a drive-thru version of the event. Students had a blast saying hello and watching their teachers throw water at each other.



Coming Soon: A New & Improved District Website!

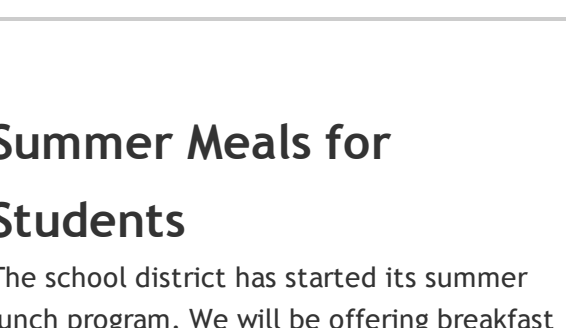
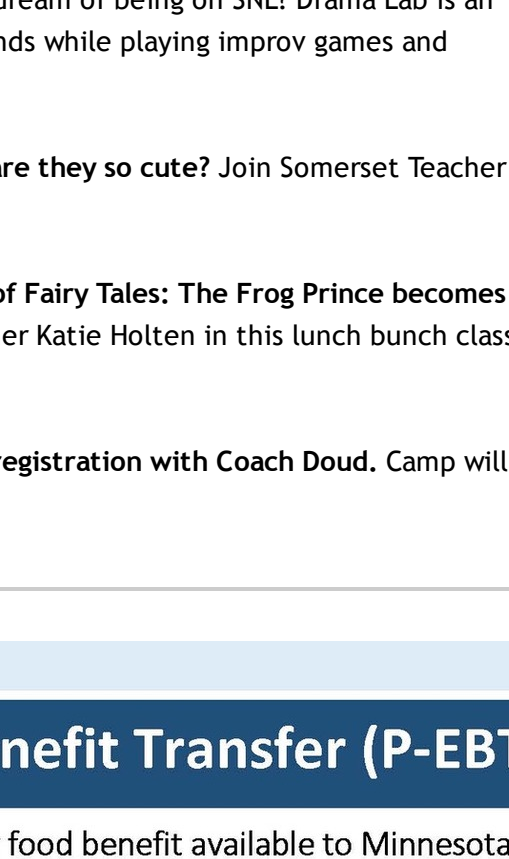
We are excited to announce that on July 1 we will be launching a new and improved website. Our goals in rolling over to a new website are to provide our staff, students, families, and community members with:

- Simplified navigation
- Updated content
- Upgraded language translation
- A layout focused on wonderful photos of our staff and students in action
- Ease of use

The July 1 launch gives us the opportunity to continue to tweak the layout and ensure it meets everyone's needs. As always, if you have any questions please reach out to the district's Communications Department at district.communications@isd197.org.

Minnesota Department of Education Seeks Responses to Fall Planning Survey

As the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) plans for the 2020-2021 school year, they are seeking your feedback on distance learning. In her communication, Commissioner of Education Mary Cathryn Ricker wrote, "While this survey is just one factor in our planning around fall, please know that your experience is extremely important to us. We are reading all of your comments in the survey and on our social media channels. I am committing to you that we will use this information to inform our decisions and the guidance we provide to our schools for this fall and beyond." [Click here](#) to take the survey. The survey will close on June 30, 2020.

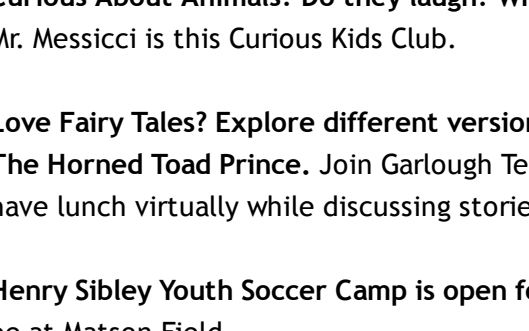
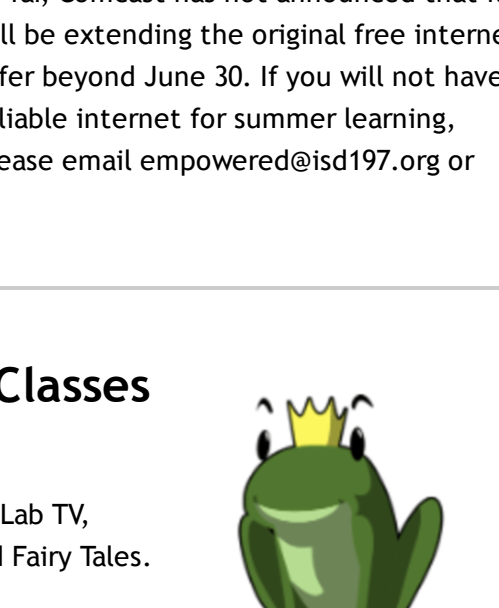


Register **TODAY** for 2020-2021 Bus Service

All students entering grades K-12 who plan to ride a bus next school year **MUST** register for bus service each year. [Click here](#) to register your student TODAY. To be eligible for bus service, students in grades K-4 must live more than 0.75 of a mile from school, students in grades 5-8 must live more than 1 mile from school, and students in grades 9-12 must live more than 2 miles from school. Please only register for service when you are sure your child will be riding a bus. Complete one form per child. Forms are due August 1, 2020. If you have any questions, please call 651-403-8320.

Summer Meals for Students

The school district has started its summer lunch program. We will be offering breakfast and lunch (packaged as a unit) for curbside pick up from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Garlough Environmental Magnet School (1740 Charlton Street in West St. Paul) and Moreland Arts & Health Sciences Magnet (217 West Moreland Avenue in West St. Paul) from June 10 to August 31, Monday-Friday (except for Friday, July 3).



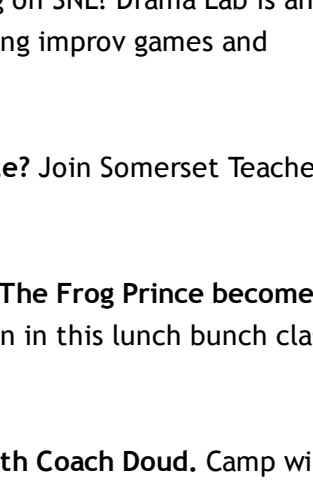
Comcast Update for Families

So far, Comcast has not announced that it will be extending the original free internet offer beyond June 30. If you will not have reliable internet for summer learning, please email empowered@isd197.org or

651-403-7005 for assistance.

Virtual Youth Enrichment Classes Starting Soon

The following classes begin next week: Drama Lab TV, Curious Kids Club, Animals & Lunch bunch, and Fairy Tales. These classes are open to all School District 197 students. [Register here.](#)



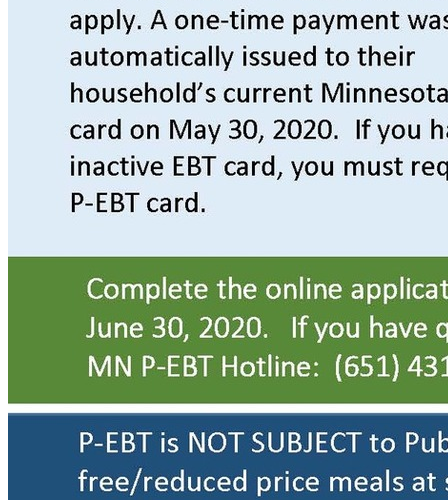
Drama Lab: Our most popular virtual class starts next week. Come see what all the fun is about. Want to work towards your lifelong dream of being on SNL? Drama Lab is an inclusive, hilarious environment to make friends while playing improv games and creating skits together.

Curious About Animals? Do they laugh? Why are they so cute? Join Somerset Teacher Mr. Messicci in this Curious Kids Club.

Love Fairy Tales? Explore different versions of Fairy Tales: **The Frog Prince becomes The Horned Toad Prince.** Join Garlough Teacher Katie Holtten in this lunch bunch class, have lunch virtually while discussing stories.

Henry Sibley Youth Soccer Camp is open for registration with Coach Doud. Camp will be at Matson Field.

Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT)



Temporary food benefit available to Minnesota families with children who would have received free or reduced-price meals if schools were open.

Families with eligible children will receive a one-time payment of \$325 per child on an existing active EBT card or a newly requested P-EBT card to help fill the gap created by a loss of school meals.

Who is eligible for P-EBT?

IF YOU WERE RECEIVING SNAP/EBT ON OR BEFORE March 18, 2020:

Families with eligible children ages 5-18 who were receiving SNAP and/or MFIP on March 18 do not need to apply. A one-time payment was automatically issued to their household's current Minnesota EBT card on May 30, 2020. If you have an inactive EBT card, you must request a P-EBT card.

IF YOU ARE **NOT** RECEIVING SNAP, OR WERE NOT ON MARCH 18, 2020:

Families who received free or reduced-price school meals in the 2019-2020 school year or attended a school that offers free school meals to all students – but who were not receiving SNAP or MFIP benefits on March 18 – **must complete an online application at mn.p-ebt.org between June 8, 2020, and June 30, 2020.** Eligible families will receive a Minnesota P-EBT card in the mail within ten days with instructions to activate the card. This card provides access to these one-time P-EBT funds.

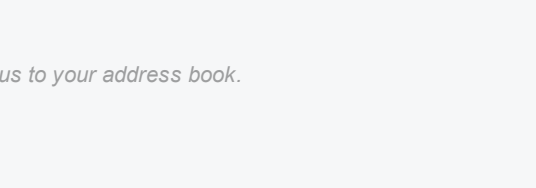
Complete the online application at mn.p-ebt.org between June 8, 2020, and June 30, 2020. If you have questions or need help applying over the phone call the MN P-EBT Hotline: (651) 431-4050 or (800) 657-3698

P-EBT is NOT SUBJECT to Public Charge rules! EVERYONE who had children receiving free/reduced price meals at school can apply!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized the Minnesota Department of Human Services, the Minnesota Department of Education and Code for America to operate the program.

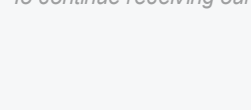
[CLICK HERE](#) for More Information

WE ARE WARRIORS!



School District 197, 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights, MN 55118

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