

## Good Afternoon,

At the end of one of the most unusual weeks that I can remember, I want to take time to thank each of you for your dedication to our students and the community of Gulf Shores. I believe that your caring attitude and actions have helped our students and parents better deal with these uncertain times. Each of you have helped us make an amazingly swift conversion to "at home learning" by developing instructional packets and on-line learning activities. I hear comments daily from parents and students sharing their appreciation and excitement. I can't wait to see all of the innovative approaches to learning that you are utilizing.

I want to extend a special thanks to our CNP staff who began serving lunch and breakfast yesterday to students in Gulf Shores. Please share the word that ANY student who wants a lunch and/or breakfast at no charge can pick up free meals at a drive-thru at GSHS today. We will begin delivering to areas throughout the community on Monday. Details are on our website and Facebook page.

Thanks also to our custodial and maintenance staff. They are on-site through next Friday cleaning and sanitizing our schools. Our technology department secured internet hotspots from AT&T in 2 days and began delivering to students who don't have home internet access. If you have students in need, please have them call our office at 251-968-9873. During this challenging week, our entire support staff has stepped in and helped wherever they were needed. I appreciate all of our employees for their dedication to our students and our community.

Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." I truly believe we have the opportunity to return as a stronger school system. We will try instructional strategies that we might not have tried. We will connect with students and families in new ways. We will rely on each other more than ever. I am proud and honored to be a part of the Gulf Shores City Schools' family, please don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions, ideas, or concerns. Thank you, again, for your commitment to our children.

Matt