

Greetings to the Jefferson Community,

This past month has been a time I believe none of us would ever have anticipated in a million years. Never the less we are living it right now. I know times have been very difficult for many of you. I hear stories daily that just conform the difficulty of our current reality. At the same time I see glimmers of advancement the human capacity for care and decency and hope for us all.

I look to nature often when I need to be reminded of the regular rhythm of the world. Robins and doves returning in the spring. Flowers blooming and trees budding all remind me that things will return to normal. Having kids at home is not normal during what should be school time. I also understand how difficult it is to engage kids in academics when you are unsure of what that looks like. Teachers are working hard to get online work ready for students. They are learning at a pace that is pushing many of them to new heights of effectiveness. In fact I believe the positive result of all this will be a deeper and more effective use of technology to enhance student learning. Not as something you may do but as a regular part of learning. I am excited by the possibilities and have been impressed by Jefferson's teachers and all they have done to embrace this change in a short period of time.

When I came on board at Jefferson 7 years ago the first thing I proposed to staff was to embrace a growth mindset. If ever there was time to do that it is now! I have attached some resources for you to explore growth mindset. This also includes some activities you can do for yourself and with kids.

[http://blog.mindsetworks.com/index.php?option=com\\_easyblog&view=entry&id=417&Itemid=128](http://blog.mindsetworks.com/index.php?option=com_easyblog&view=entry&id=417&Itemid=128)

Finally, while you are working with kids try not let all of this overwhelm you. It is OK to shut off the constant stream of "to dos" and simply be. There are no merit badges for completing every lick of work out there and in fact this is a unique opportunity to connect with those close to you that you will more than likely never experience again.

Be safe and know we will all get through this together. We will be better in many ways than we are now. I am looking forward to the possibilities we have in front of us.