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*Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!*

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Alachua County Public School families:

Well, we've made it through the first week of remote instruction under the COVID-19 school shutdown. If you're like me, you've been riding a roller coaster of emotions—fear, uncertainty, frustration, inspiration, gratitude, and yes, sometimes even boredom!

As many of you know, I'm not only Superintendent of Schools, but I'm also the parent of an Alachua County Public School student. I know it's not easy to adjust to this new reality of remote learning, and all of us are still learning the ropes. There will certainly be 'glitches' along the way, but please know that our teachers, principals and other school and district staff are ready and willing to help you and your students make it work. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work through all the expected and unexpected challenges. Now more than ever, you are your child's best teacher!

Our goal was to reach all families this week, by email or by phone. If you and your child's teacher(s) have not yet connected, please give your school a call on Monday. In the meantime, be sure to keep checking your emails and voice mails for messages from them. Regular communication is crucial to your child's success with remote learning.

Of course, kids can't learn at school or at home if they're hungry. That's why I'm so proud of the efforts of our Food and Nutrition Services staff, and the bus drivers, who are preparing, delivering and distributing meals while schools are closed. This week alone they gave out 133,222 meals, including meals for the weekend. While most folks are staying close to home, these dedicated professionals are coming into work so that Alachua County's children will not go hungry. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their commitment to our kids!

If your child needs meals while schools are closed, you can visit [www.yourchoicefresh.com](http://www.yourchoicefresh.com) for a list of distribution sites and times. We may sometimes revise the schedule to better meet the needs of our families, so be sure to keep checking the site. And remember, ANY child aged 0-18 is eligible.

We can't know when this crisis will end, but we can be sure that our children are looking to all of us for comfort and guidance. By working together, we can help Alachua County's children come out of this difficult situation stronger and more resilient than ever.

Be safe, be well, and my very best wishes to you and your family!

Karen Clarke, Superintendent  
Alachua County Public Schools