

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you might already know, I have taken a leave of absence from teaching. My last day at Ardrey Kell was Wednesday, September 12th. My original plan was to remain in Charlotte until Friday, September 14th. However, with the threats of Hurricane Florence and cancelation of school on September 13th, 14th, and 17th, I decided to begin my leave a few days early.

My dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer 6 months ago. Despite chemo and radiation, his cancer continued to spread rapidly. Hospice has been involved for a while, but unless he leaves his house, they cannot give him the full time care he needs. My mom had surgery to replace her ankle and bones in her foot this summer and will still need months of physical therapy before she is strong enough to put any weight on it. Therefore, I will be my father's primary caregiver. Due to the nature of the circumstances, I do not currently have an estimated date of return.

I have 3 wonderful classes filled with some of the brightest and most capable minds at Ardrey Kell. Although I realize my absence from the classroom is not ideal, I take comfort knowing that our scholars will be in good hands. While I am on family leave, a permanent sub will take over my classes in the building. I will be working closely to assist the substitute, making this transition as smooth as possible. I will still be designing and executing all lesson plans from afar. If you are not already signed up as a "guardian" in our scholar's Google Classroom, please take the time to complete this task. This will allow you to receive updates on the day-to-day proceedings in our classroom.

I am a member of one of the strongest teams at Ardrey Kell. Should our scholar have questions or require help, my teammates are available for morning and afternoon tutoring with an appointment. Students can also sign up for Knight Time with any member of my team as well. The Civics and Economics Team lead, Maggie Dipietro, can be reached at margarets.dipietro@cms.k12.nc.us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at annaleighb.marquez@cms.k12.nc.us or the Social Studies Department Assistant Principal, Yolanda Burnette at yolanda1.burnette@cms.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Anna Leigh Marquez

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