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| **GEAR UP**  **Monthly Update** | |  |
| April 2020 |
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| I know that we all have been dealing with the unprecedented effects of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). I want to ensure all families and students that we all take the necessary precautions to make sure that the surfaces we come into contact with are as clean as possible. However, students must also take the necessary steps to ensure we all stay safe. Please students, make sure that you wash your hands on a more than regular basis for at least 20 seconds. If you need to cough or sneeze do so into a tissue or your elbow and wash your hands right away.  I know that much of this information seems very repetitive, and it is; however, it bears repeating. These simple steps will help so much more than we think  Now back to a little lighter of fares, last month students took a trip to Bell Hospital in Ishpeming. We split into groups and were able to visit five different departments within the hospital. I know that I witnessed students being truly engaged in the discussions with professionals within the medical field. They asked questions, dug deeper, and learned just what it takes to be a medical professional.  Have a wonderful month!  -Anthony A Note from YourStudent Coordinator By Anthony Rospierski | | |
| “If you knew they could have learned anything, what would you wish you would have taught them?”  -Dr. Paula Kluth  INSIDE THIS UPDATE   1. Student Coordinator Update 2. Intuit TurboTax Help 3. Spring Clean Time! 4. Copping with Disappointments |  | |

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| The IRS requires you to file a tax return in each year that your income is greater than your standard deduction plus one exemption if you are not the dependent to another taxpayer. Many taxpayers fail to file a return even when required to do so. If you are one of them, you are probably racking up interest and penalties on back taxes every month you are late. Your obligation to file these returns never goes away, but catching up may be easier than you think.  Step One: Collect income information  Gather as much information as you can about your income for the years you need to file. You'll need your prior W-2s and 1099s for those years. If you are missing a W-2 and cannot obtain a copy from your employer, you can request a substitute from the IRS by filing IRS Form 4852, which you can find on the TurboTax website.  If you sold any capital assets in those years, such as stocks, you need to report this income as well. However, if your goal is to stop penalties and interest from accruing, you can always estimate your income and make a tax payment before receiving a copy of your 1099 or W-2.  Step Two: Determine deductions  Reduce your tax bill with deductions. Just because you are filing your return late doesn't mean you forfeit the deductions you could have taken. If you plan on itemizing deductions, you need to obtain whatever documentation you have that supports each deduction.  If you don't have this, you can always claim the standard deduction for each of those years. You can also reduce your tax by claiming deductions and credits for any dependents you were eligible to claim in the prior years. You need the names and Social Security numbers for each dependent you claim.  Step Three: Obtain proper tax forms  Obtain the correct forms and instructions for the specific tax year. Your past-due returns must be filed on the original tax forms.    You can easily access prior year tax forms on the TurboTax website or by contacting the IRS. Don't make the mistake of using current year tax forms or you may end up preparing the return again.  Step Four: Complete tax forms  Fill out the forms you need according to the instructions for those forms. Since the tax law changes from year to year, it's important that you use the instructions applicable for the tax year you are filing a return for. Aside from the confusion it will cause, using the wrong instructions may cause you to underpay or overpay the amount of tax you actually owe.  Step Five: Mail or e-file your tax return  Mail your tax return and all supporting documents to the address listed in the instructions. Sending your return to the wrong address may delay the time it takes the IRS to process it. For easier and faster results, you can complete and E-File your prior year’s return using TurboTax.  https://tinyurl.com/yx6tsrlu | Tip: Make sure you make a copy of every document you send to the IRS. Documents are occasionally lost, and you may need a backup in case you are audited. |
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# If you have back taxes Intuit TurboTax Relief is here to help

GEAR UP

Monthly Update

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| By Anthony Rospierski  Now that spring is officially here is it too early to start the spring clean? I think NOT! Growing up I lived and worked with a mother whose second job was cleaning homes. I think that at any given time my mother would clean 3-4 houses a week with me in tow. Growing up in this environment I have learned a thing or two about keeping homes clean.  The biggest aid in keeping homes clean I have noticed is having an organized home. The more knickknacks you have the more surface area there is for the dust to collect. Not only does reducing the number of items on your selves limit dust it also simply provides a cleaner and more sleek look to your home. This is not to say that you must become minimalist, homes that are cluttered more than others can still be just as clean!  One more general tip to making your home feel cleaner without much effort is having clean windows. If you have dirt and grime on your windows and your home is spotless, otherwise, it can still seem as though your home is not sparkling as you thought it might. Let the light in open the windows bring in the fresh air! Below are some basic tips that I have discovered over the years for keeping any home clean!   1. Fels-Naptha Bar Soap will take any stain out of fabric, clothing or otherwise. Just use lukewarm water and apply the bar soap directly to stains then blot dry. 2. Ammonia, although a harsh smelling chemical has been the best chemical to clean and sanitize a bathroom that I have found. One important thing to consider is that you can NOT mix ammonia and bleach. A mixture of the two creates a chlorine-based gas that, in small doses will cause irritation to the eyes and skin. | 1. To clean windows the BEST window cleaner is not Windex or even newspapers. Hot water and cornstarch is another way to clean windows. You need one rag to have soaked in the water used to clean the window and then one t-shirt rag used to dry the window. This method provides a streak-free and spot-free window! 2. My last cleaning tip is dedicated to the floors. If you have hardwood or tile flooring use Murphy’s Oil Soap and hot water to clean the floor. If you have carpets maybe consider renting a carpet cleaner to give your floors that fresh clean look. |
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# Time to Clean up Around the House!

“Too many tips? If you can only do one tip then do that! Any small improvement is a big improvement in the grand scheme of things!

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| Coping with Disappointments By Meredith Waara  Here is some advice to help your child get better grades in every class. Perhaps they will need gentle reminders from you in order to remember to follow these suggestions.   * Send them to school, every day, on time. To get good grades, you have to be there to understand the material and learn new things. Of course, don’t send them when they are sick! * Remind them that the teachers are in charge and make the rules. They just have to adapt to what the teacher says. If Mr. Jones says no gum in his class, then don’t chew gum. If Ms. Smith doesn’t allow students to wear hats indoors, then they need to take them off. * Make sure your child is prepared for each class. Do they have their pens, books, and homework ready for the next day? Homework reinforces the skills or information they are supposed to be learning each day. Much of their school grades still depend on homework grades. Help them to understand that this work is what they must do each day, just like you have work to do every day. * One thing your child might not be aware of is their body language. Ask them if they are paying attention in each class and not doing assignments for another class, passing notes, rolling their eyes, or audibly sighing. Learning to work in a group is great preparation for real-world jobs. They need to do their share of the projects, try new ideas, and support their fellow group members. * Encourage them to participate in class. Ask questions. Answer questions. It makes the time pass more quickly if they are actively engaged in the lessons. Participation may also raise their grades. |  | * Be respectful. Remind them of the golden rule to treat others the way they would like to be treated. * Be available to help your student with homework or to participate in a discussion of what they did at school that day. Are they reading a new book? Did they learn some historical fact that interests you? Are they having problems with someone in class? Stay involved. * Praise your student when they earn good grades. If they have been getting D’s on their algebra tests and suddenly brings home a C, that’s cause for celebration! Encourage them to do their best and give them positive feedback when they do. |



**Food for Thought**

The next time everyone is sitting at the table for dinner here is a good question to begin a great conversation.

**What do you think the biggest problem in the world is? How about in our country?**

Multicultural Education and Resource Center

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