Dear Mrs. \_\_\_ Class Families,

Hello! We're the parents of \_\_\_\_\_, also a student in Mrs. \_\_\_\_class. We apologize for sending you this information in a mass email, but as your children are with \_\_\_\_for a majority of the day, we want you to be aware of some serious health challenges he’s facing - and ask for your help.

As some of you may know, \_\_\_\_was diagnosed with Medulloblastoma this May. This is a cancerous brain tumor located in the back of the head and at the top of the spinal cord. Fortunately, \_\_\_\_ tumor was completely removed by an amazing surgeon. After the resection, he underwent 30 days of brain and spine radiation in \_\_\_\_\_\_ and is currently receiving chemotherapy. We would appreciate you sharing his diagnosis and situation with your child as you feel appropriate.

Here are a few specifics we'd like to share and some requests for which we’d appreciate your help:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ misses school often. He is typically absent every Wednesday for his clinic visit and chemotherapy. Also, he may miss multiple days or a week during hospital visits or neutropenic periods (where blood counts are too low to fight infections). If your child expresses concern about his absence, please assure him or her that \_\_\_\_ is just getting a special treatment and will return after.

2) Please let your children know this is not something they can "catch" from \_\_\_\_.  We don't want his classmates worried that they could get this from him. Social interaction and making friends is so important to \_\_\_\_\_emotional health and are wonderful motivators. We want his classmates to think of him as just another \_\_\_\_\_\_, and hopefully, friend. J

3) \_\_\_\_\_is bald from the radiation he received and chemotherapy he is currently receiving. We like to tell curious little ones that he doesn’t have hair because we don’t want to cover a perfect head. J If your child asks, please explain as you feel appropriate.

4) As per the school’s guidelines, please keep your child home for at least a full 24 hours AFTER being symptom-free from fever, diarrhea, or vomiting. Also, please keep your child home if they have strep, severe coughing, or a cold with thick or constant discharge. Due to the chemo, Jonah does not have the ability to fight illnesses like the average child. If he gets even a low-grade fever, we must immediately go to the oncology clinic or ER for IV antibiotics. Again, these are all current school policies; we’re just stressing the importance for our little man. J

5) Please emphasize and practice **hand washing** (30 seconds to be effective), good hygiene, and healthy habits with your child (i.e., coughing into your elbow or using a tissue). Proper hand washing is the #1 way to prevent spreading illnesses.

6)   We specifically ask that you let us, as well as the school, know immediately if your child has or has been exposed to any contagious illnesses or diseases.  The sooner Jonah’s doctors know and can respond, the better.

We are so incredibly grateful to the entire community. Many of you have supported us through everything from dinners and donations to prayers and positive thoughts. Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us through this difficult time. Our medical team feels very strongly that Jonah should attend school and lead as normal of a life as possible to help him stay motivated, active, and positive. Please feel free to reach out to us directly if you have any questions or concerns at…

Thank you,