



Dear Parent,

The long-awaited day has almost arrived, as the first day of our 20-21 school year is just around the corner. Very soon, you will be receiving an email from your child's teacher and she will share with you links for a virtual Meet the Teacher, which will occur next week, as well as a sign-up for Aug. 18 to come and pick up materials that your child will need during our remote learning. Keep in mind that your 20-21 teacher may be different than the teacher you were originally assigned because of adjustments to teacher assignments to Virtual Academy and student cohort groups.

We will begin VIRTUALLY on August 17 on the track 4 calendar, and all students will have track out from Oct.1-Oct 16. Our new bell schedule is 9:15-4:00 this year, and as always, we will begin with our announcements at 9:10 so that instruction can start right at 9:15.

This remote learning plan is VERY DIFFERENT than the remote learning which took place in the spring. It is much more like a regular school day, with an expectation for daily attendance and heightened expectations for learning participation and engagement. Attendance and grading will occur. We must increase the time on instruction to ensure that your children will indeed learn all they need to learn to be successful moving forward, and we have a mighty plan for quality instruction to do so! Teachers will share much more about the specifics of their classroom, but here is some basic information for you to get started.

What will remote learning look like?

For your convenience, we have structured most face to face instruction with the classroom teacher in the morning hours for all students. We will begin at 9:10 with our pledge and morning meetings and move into instruction for Reading, Writing and Math from there.

It will be very important that your child is ready to start school and begin learning at 9:10. They should have already had breakfast and be logged in to their Google Meet. Teachers will work with students live, provide breaks, and work with students in small groups. We definitely heard you in our spring survey, where most of the common feedback was that the students were more attentive and learned better when in small groups with teachers, so we have included this daily for reading and for math. While the teacher works with small groups, the other students will be working on independent assignments until it is their turn to work with the teacher.

Students will break for lunch, and then in the afternoon they will work on completing assignments and engage in practice activities, participate in specials like art, music and PE, and complete required digital practice. Additionally, in the afternoon, classroom teachers, instructional support and special educators will work with small groups of students on specific areas of need to ensure that we are targeting support for any student who needs it.

Teachers will share exact schedules, but it will likely look something like this:

9:10-12:00 –(Live instruction) Morning meeting, Language Arts, Math

12:00-1:00 Lunch

12:00-4:00 – (Some live and some independent) Specials, Independent practice, Instructional pull-out where appropriate, Digital practice and recess

So, as you can see, it's a full day! Though it will look a little different, we do need the students to know that they need to be "all in" particularly in the morning. We know many of you are working and relying on friends, sitters and daycare or trying to balance working from home, so if you can make sure they get logged on and ready at 9:10, the teachers will take it from there! We have arranged it so that you will have flexibility in the afternoons for when your children complete their work, read independently, complete the required digital practice, and have recess, in order to work it around your schedules. Special education and intervention teachers, as well as instructional supports like AG and ESL, and additional support from the classroom teacher will be small groups in the afternoon as well, and the teachers will communicate with you if your child needs to log on for those extra sessions. Finally, teachers will have times every day where you can reach out to them with questions.

Because this looks very different from the expectations this spring, we ask that you start preparing your child for high expectations, quality work and excellent behavior. Please try to help them think about expectations for school as "it's just like when you're at Willow Springs!" We encourage you to make sure that video games, tv and cell phones are not allowed during school hours, just as they are not allowed here at school. If students work hard and finish everything with good quality at 2:30, then great! Maybe it will be a great incentive to get to play early!!

As mentioned earlier, we want to make sure that you and your child have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and hear the expectations for our kick-off from her. Each teacher will have a Google Meet and presentation for you next week, either on Aug. 12 or 13, depending on the grade level. It will last between 30-45 minutes and she will outline the schedule, how to access her Google Classroom, expectations, and lots more!

On August 18 between 4:00-7:00, we will have an opportunity for you to pick up math, reading and other learning materials that your child will need during remote learning. It will also be an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher face to face. We are scheduling times for families to come in through Sign-up Genius and limiting visits to 5 students in a 30 minute window, and asking families to stay no more than 10 minutes when you come in to pick up from your class. This will help us social distance and limit exposure time for staff and families. As always, we ask that you and your students wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others. Each family will be screened at the door before going to the classrooms, so please do not come if you have a fever or any Covid symptoms.

If you are unable to come on Aug. 18, we will have a drive-through pick up between 6-7 on Aug. 19.

Families who requested a device will be receiving information from the county about when and where to pick it up the week of Aug 17.

If you need a device and did not complete the survey, please call us at 919.557.2770 as soon as possible.

We miss your sweet family and look forward to seeing you all on August 18 for material pick up. Look for an email from your child's teacher by Sunday, and always call us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Camille Miller, Principal

