



Jeffreys Grove
Spanish Language Immersion Magnet Elementary
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Principal's Message
March 30, 2020

Dear JG Families,

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy. I know you are working hard and doing your best to support your child at home, and I understand this may not have been easy. We get it. As you may know, WCPSS has launched the [Remote Learning Resources Site](#). It is my hope that you have been able to access it. Our own JG staff has also created a collection of at-home resources by grade level with activities for your child. These can be accessed from our [Jeffreys Grove Website](#). Currently, the expectation of our district is for students to practice and review previously taught concepts, skills and knowledge from quarters 1, 2 and 3. Starting on April 13, after spring break, we will pivot to new concepts and content. In preparation for this new phase of online instruction, we need to know what your ability to connect and participate virtually is. We are working with our district to collect data on this in order to better understand your at-home technology access. Late last week, your child's teacher reached out to you with a survey link to complete. We had a technical issue with the survey, and it wasn't collecting information properly. We were able to fix the issue very quickly and reopened the survey. If you believe you have not responded to the survey, please reach out to your child's teacher as soon as possible. We don't want to miss anyone who has a need. Please know that we love you and miss our kids very much. As always if your family needs specific support, do not hesitate to reach out. Our contact information is on our website as well as below.

Fondly,

Juli Ventura, Proud Principal of Jeffreys Grove Magnet Elementary
mventura@wcpss.net

From our Literacy Coach's Corner - Learning through life skills

Practicing skills does not always come from sitting in front of a device. There are many ways to look at learning and review of learning from our life skills. Here are a couple of activities that we can look at as learning/review. Cooking can help young kids learn and practice some basic math concepts and build language skills. And the experience of creating meals with you can help build their self-confidence and lay the foundation for healthy eating habits. Bringing kids into the kitchen can benefit them in several ways. Cooking can help:

- Build basic skills. You can help your child hone basic math skills by doing something as simple as counting eggs or pouring water into a measuring cup. You can ask what comes first, second, and third or count together as you spoon dough onto a cookie sheet. When you read a recipe together, you're introducing new words to your child's vocabulary and promoting literacy. Following steps in the recipe can work on listening skills.
- Encourage an adventurous palate. Kids can be picky eaters and bringing them into the kitchen to cook can help expose them to new tastes. When a child can help, they might sample dishes they wouldn't try if you just served them. So, encourage kids to taste new ingredients you're working with and talk about what they like and how healthy foods make a body grow.
- Help young kids explore with their senses. Kids learn by exploring with their senses and the kitchen is a great place to do that. Invite them to listen to the whir of the mixer, pound dough and watch it rise, smell it baking in the oven, and finally taste the warm bread fresh from the oven. If it smells good, looks appealing, and is easy to eat, they might just be willing to try it!
- Boost confidence. Students love to show what they can do and working in the kitchen provides opportunities to gain a sense of accomplishment. If they helped assemble the pizza, let them know that their help was important. You could name the pizza or another dish after your child. Serve "David's Pizza" or "Penelope's Salad" for dinner tonight. Even if the end results are not exactly what you expected, praise their efforts.

No matter what you choose to do, even if it is not work from the teacher or an academic book, keeping your child involved keeps their mind growing. Many families struggle to find quality time together - we encourage you to use this stay-at-home period as an opportunity to do so. The obligations of work, school and other activities can make families feel as if their lives are spinning. Becoming more engaged in our children's day-to-day learning can be — and is — overwhelming, but it also provides a safe opportunity to [explore things](#) together that we otherwise could not. Remember, you and your child are in a new situation. Welcome that challenge together and be open to the learning and the resilience building that will follow.

Academic Updates – Math

As you may know, all students in grades K-5 have access to Dreambox Learning. Students at Jeffreys Grove have been using this program all year. Here are a few things to highlight that will support the ongoing use of Dreambox as we move forward. Here's what you need to know:

- Students log into their WakeID portal, click on Dreambox, and then start playing the game. It's that simple!
- There is a link to a parent overview on the Remote Learning Resources Site with slides and a video.
- There is a weekly live Q&A for parents in the WCPSS each Tuesday at 10:00 am via

<https://dreambox.zoom.us/j/982192601>

If you have specific questions, please reach out first to your child's teacher, then Odry Melendez (Instructional Facilitator) or Julie Scott (Assistant Principal).

Odry Melendez – omelendezmorel@wcpss.net

Julie Scott – jascott1@wcpss.net

Counselor's Corner

Where do we begin when thinking back over the past few weeks? We are definitely in unique territory! I hope you and your family are finding a balance between home, school at home and family time.

I'm sharing the April Newsletter that displays our Positivity Project focus for this month. Even though we are not at school, we can continue our focus on learning about character strengths. You can use this newsletter each week to focus on the strength and learn a little about it with your family. There is a link for each character strength that helps describe it in more detail.

[April Positivity Project Newsletter](#)

I also want to share a resource from WCPSS about "Emotional Safety for Students." Please click [here](#) to read about focusing on the emotional wellbeing of our students.

If I can help with anything, please feel free to contact me at bjacobs@wcpss.net. I miss you all and SOAR ON EAGLES!!

Take care,

Mrs. Jacobs, School Counselor

Technology Tidbit – Accessing Google Classroom

As we prepare for the remote learning launch on April 13, this section offers you tips that may make your life a bit easier. For those new to Google Classroom and how to access your child's classroom when their teacher sends you a code, [here](#) is a tips sheet we hope you'll find helpful.

Field Trip Refunds

Due to the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency, our district has canceled all remaining field trips for the remainder of the school year. Please bear with us while we work our way through the process of refunding such a large group of people, as it will take a bit of time under the present circumstances. If your balance was paid in full, the amount of your refund, by grade level, will be:

K- \$12.00

1st - \$4.50

2nd - \$28.50

3rd - \$13.00

4th - \$51.00

5th- \$15.00

There are 2 options below - please respond with one option as listed. Please respond with one of these options by **Wednesday, April 1st.**

1. Donate to the Field Trip Scholarship Fund for students in need. For this option please email bhicks@wcpss.net with your student's name(s) and teacher(s) name and the amount of the donation being made.
2. Request a refund for the trip(s). For this option please email bhicks@wcpss.net with your student's name(s) and teacher(s) name and the amount to be refunded. You must also include:
 - a. Name to be listed on the check
 - b. Address for mailing the check

Thank you for patience while we work to get all of the requests honored. We are working closely with the accounting department to get all of these refunds processed.

Important Dates

April 6-10 – Spring Break

April 13 – Remote Learning starts (slowly), more to come from your child's teacher