

Wednesday Words

September 2, 2020

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We are just in our 3rd day of full-on remote learning and it is hard. It is hard for teachers as they are planning for hours to only find that they can't control when the internet decides to go out or is spotty and the lesson they designed is not able to be experienced by students. It is especially hard on you, parents, as you are trying to juggle the various schedules of your children along with your own lives whether you are working or working full-time as caregiver. The hardest part is the stark reality that we are in this for more than a few weeks. As we grapple with what needs to be our "new normal" we need to provide each other with flexibility, understanding, and grace. We need families to give grace to the teachers when things aren't going as expected, and Lacy staff need to give grace to families when students are not able to log on or participate in the full day. We are not in the groove yet as this is new to us all and there may be tears, lots of tears, and frustration. Give yourself space and time to grieve the loss of school as we know it and as we would so want for our staff and children. We then need to think about what is the "one thing" I can control today and work on that. It is okay if your child is not able to attend it all. Right now, it is so important that your child feels welcomed, valued, and included in school whatever that looks and feels like for them at this moment. If they need to build up to attending the various live lessons, let them do that. If your child is frustrated with how school looks and feels, listen. They too need to be able to be frustrated and I'm sure they feel overwhelmed. What is one thing your child can do today that they were not able to do yesterday – one day at a time.

Please know that yesterday we all experienced periods when the internet would go down. We did find out that the students were able to still engage with each other on the google meet even when the teacher was "frozen" or internet prevented him/her from continuing to lead the class. It turns out that this glitch happened throughout the county yesterday and was not isolated to Lacy Elementary. I am asking teachers to send a quick Remind message to families when this happens so you are aware that the teacher is no longer leading the class. We will want all students to log off until the teacher lets the students know to resume class. Too much can go wrong with students on by themselves without a teacher!

During our Open House that we will have in a few weeks (details forthcoming), teachers will review the behavior expectations during online learning. We will also post these in every google classroom for teachers and students to review together. Thank you in advance for having these same conversations at home.

Please communicate with your child's homeroom teacher as needed. We have to keep our lines of communication open so we can support your child together. Thank you!

Together we are stronger!

With grace,

Sherri Miller

Reminder: If there is a change in your email address or phone number, please contact Emily Spooney, espooney@wcpss.net.

A tip:

If you have not had time to set up a "school zone" for your child to engage in work, this may be something to do this weekend. Having a consistent spot to work each day will provide comfort for your child. Are the instructional materials easily accessible near their spot? Is there enough light? Do you have a clock nearby so that they can look at the time for their meets? Is their schedule printed out and posted near them? Getting their "school zone" ready, is one great place to start. Children may be struggling making the separation from a learning space and a lounging space. Students need to be able to disconnect from the place in their home that is designated for "learning". When students can't differentiate the physical places in their home from learning and relaxing, they struggle coming into their virtual classroom with the mindset of "This is where I am expected to listen and learn."

Here are just two examples of what we have seen:

