

March 24, 2020

Dear Families,

As you have undoubtedly heard, Governor Whitmer has issued a stay-at-home order that will be in effect through Monday, April 13, 2020. This affects our planned reopening date of April 6, and we have rescheduled the return date to Tuesday, April 14. *We will still consider the week of March 30-April 3 as our spring break.*

With the addition of the extra week, we feel even more responsible for delivering quality curricula to your children, and have added elements of scheduling and commitment at the early childhood level which were not in place before. That said, we are concerned about the balance between continued learning through our online program, your and/or your child's responsibility for this, **and** the need for connection, reassurance, and mental equilibrium in these very unusual times.

To maintain normalcy, these weeks at home, with the exception of March 30-April 3, are considered school weeks with all that entails: attendance, assignment completions, and accountability. Assignments and attendance are being tracked, and you must help your student with online submissions if necessary. On the other hand, it may take less time for your child to complete assignments at home than at school because many of the hours necessary for group learning and collaboration, working with the concrete materials, and large group gatherings are not needed at home. Home learning more often involves one-on-one with an adult, or the child working alone. And there are the serious issues of your child's—and your family's—anxiety at this time. So a schedule that suits everyone in your family is best, when it can be accomplished.

In a separate letter accompanying this one, Sue Fitzpatrick addresses the stress of parents needing to work from home and manage student's learning. Sue will also post an occasional pertinent article in your child's Google Classroom or on Facebook. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher directly by email if you have questions or concerns. Teachers are happy to help you; they understand this is hard for everyone.

In short, what do you need to know or do?

1. ***Accept the invitation to join your child's Google Classroom.*** This is the platform through which program-related communication and assignments will be delivered.
2. ***Do whatever your child's classroom requires to signify daily attendance.*** This will take the form of checking in or answering a question-of-the-day.
3. ***Download our school's Distance Learning Handbook*** located on the school's website. This contains resources and information that will aid your success in facilitating distance learning for your child.
4. ***Read the accompanying letter from Sue Fitzpatrick.***
5. ***Assist your child with submissions to Google Classroom*** if he or she needs your help.
6. ***Monitor your email for ongoing communications from your school's administrators.*** Please know that we are not sending idle emails. Our in-boxes are overflowing, too, and we do not want to waste your time or our own. If you receive an email from us, it will contain information that you need to know.

Please take the time to treat yourself to a cup of tea, take an impromptu walk in your neighborhood, and enjoy your family in this hiatus from our normal lives.

And above all, stay well,

Kay Neff and Laura Springer