

To the Administrative Leaders at Reynolds Elementary School,

Please take a moment to think of the current crisis among us. Think of the adjustments that teachers, students and their families made to adapt to this rapid state of social and economic change. Every day, minute and second best utilized for the growth of student knowledge has been redesigned. The day to day of the traditional school environment has changed. Admittedly, our students are unable to keep up with the changes due to their limited exposure to technology and low interest in education due to factors ranging from low parental involvement to unfavorable life circumstances.

Now consider the possibility that the greater Reynolds community has the potential to educate in a more impactful way no matter what personal situations may arise. An ePortfolio is a living tool that displays the value of student voice and choice in their learning. With students being enthusiastic leaders in their education, the focus will change from a traditional way of learning to an individualized yet collaborative educational experience. It is possible! Despite the circumstances, a student involved and motivated by his own education will be more invested and reflective of his growth.

I would like to propose the implementation of ePortfolios at Reynolds Elementary in the 2020-2021 school year. My students will use the ePortfolios as a tool to digitize their learning, their growth and personal reflections for what they learn throughout the school year. This project will be used to encourage authenticity, creativity and invite students to have an increased willingness to learn. Through use of the most effective and seamless program, the digital portfolio will be maintained by students with their original thoughts and artifacts. I will be able to assist and guide their creations in the classroom and periodically during my conference time as well as any time a student volunteers toward the project.

Reynolds Elementary School believes that “Excellence is our Norm.” We must continue to open doors to create opportunities for this excellence. With the appearance of the COVID-19 virus, we should understand that we can no longer solely rely on the traditional brick-and-mortar way of teaching. We must put the learning in the hands of the students for they hold the keys to their own success. We must create an environment to facilitate their learning to be authentic to their life and experiences while giving them choice and a voice to display what they have learned. This will, in turn, enable students to accept challenges, develop and inherently increase the depth of understanding curriculum – all factors that are crucial for the academic achievement of students. More importantly, students will have a well-rounded view of their learning by making connections in ways that were previously more difficult to create.

I look forward to your support for ePortfolios to become a major part of “The Reynolds Way.” Your support of this project will further prove the significance of technology in our school. Please allow my access to both classroom and computer lab technology in order to pilot this project. I encourage an open-minded perspective in order to motivate both administration and staff to continue this process through each student’s journey as they continue at our campus. Moving forward, please remember that we owe it to our students to ensure they have the opportunity to be leaders with the ability to make change that starts with them. I believe that with teamwork, we can guide students to be the future influencers they were meant to be.

Sincerely,

Sara Long Jenkins