



## WE ENVISION EVERY STUDENT THINKING, LEARNING, ACHIEVING, AND CARING

### April Elementary Principal's Report

I can't believe how much things have changed in the last couple of weeks. Our current educational environment keeps changing and it is hard to navigate. With that said our teachers worked hard the extra week before spring break that our students received as an extension of their break. During this time our teachers prepared on-line instruction and gathered materials for students. Thank you, everyone, for coming in to clean out your child's desk and pick up supplies and computers.

I hope each of you had the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about how instruction is going to happen because each class is doing things a little differently depending on age. If you are unsure of how online or distance learning is going to look for your child, I encourage you to reach out Monday, March 30, to your child's teacher through email. (Teacher emails are formatted like mine cforst@dc2j.org) Our teachers will be back at work from home that Monday and should be available by email to answer questions. They can also get you set up in a video conference through your child's Google account if that would be helpful. With all of this said, I ask that you are patient with us. We went through some professional development on using Google Classroom the week before our break, but it is new to many of the elementary teachers. Further, many of our students have not used it. There will be some growing pains.

Since there will be growing pains, both Crystal Profitt and Annie Stiasny found a "**Parent's Guide to Google Classroom**" resource on-line. Since it was so helpful, Roxie Guynes put it up on our website. If you scroll down on the home page you will see a section that has "online learning resources" and a link to the guide. Please use this guide as it is fantastic and will get you and your child where you need to go. Many teachers will be using Google Classroom for sending and receiving information and Google Meet for meeting individually or working with reading groups.

The one thing that could be a little difficult is getting your child signed on to Google for the first time. You may be surprised as your child may already know their credentials as many have signed onto their email in the past. Others have not. If your child's teacher is using Google Classroom and has not yet given you a user name/password combination, please contact your child's teacher through email and they will give it to you.

Another issue could be your internet connectivity. Hopefully, many of you figured this out over break. Also, Farmers is supposedly blanketing the town with WiFi. We will see. At any rate, if you don't have the internet please be communicating that with your teacher and we will need to work with you to see what we can do. We may have to send and receive hard copies of work through the mail. It may also be that you need to get the Google Classroom app on your phone and you will be able to send and receive information that way. Again, communication with your teacher is going to be key. Also, your child's teacher will be communicating with you - especially if they aren't seeing progress from your child.

Finally, I again ask for your patience. We also realize you only have so much time. I have asked teachers to send work to keep students learning, but also realize that many of you may still be working and only have a few hours in the evening. I have suggested that they give the required assignments as well as suggested work. The required assignments will be graded the suggested will be extra things you can do with your child that will keep them busy and learning. During the school day, we do both the required and suggested. We also enrich your child's curriculum to make their learning experience as rich as possible to help their minds grow. Remember that the experience they receive online will be different than when they are at school, but it is the best we can do under our current circumstances. If you have any further questions, you can contact your child's teacher or me.

Thanks,

Charlotte Forst

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