

March 15, 2020

Dear Day Families,

The Day teachers and I have received such wonderful words of support and kindness from all of you. We are grateful to serve such a supportive community. Let's continue to keep connected in the days ahead as those strong connections are the foundation of our community and make Day such a special place.

Some of your emails have expressed a need for guidance around student learning in the days ahead. I am hoping that details below will be helpful. Please know that I will pass along any new information once it becomes available.

- Students are not expected to complete any assignments until the state and district determine what the expectations may be for supporting student learning and student social-emotional health during the closures.
- Food resources, as well as additional resources and updates related to COVID-19, can be found on the NPS website at: <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/COVID19>
- The NPS Office of Teaching and Learning is assembling a collection of materials to provide enrichment and connectedness opportunities for your children. The materials will provide educational opportunities and activities at grade level for your children while school is closed. They are not intended to replace classroom instruction, or to substitute for instruction in any way. Rather, they are supplemental - curated grade-level activities that are interesting and fun and encourage students to explore new topics on their own.
- Teachers and counselors have been asked to not communicate about assignments or upcoming work until there is further direction.

- Reading a book or writing/sketching in a journal are great options to continue the learning process until we have more information.
- Exercising and using time for creativity pursuits are other helpful options.
- The Main Office is closed and students and families are not allowed in the building at this time. If you have urgent questions about student records, please email me.
- Please be mindful of the current CDC guidelines and recommendations of maintaining “social distance” and discouraging large social gatherings.
- As Superintendent Fleishman mentioned, all meetings and school activities have been postponed. We will be revising our schedule for the Term 3 report card once we resume normal school functioning. I look forward to rescheduling other key events that we had to postpone this week and next.

I know that time away from school poses very unique challenges, but it also offers opportunities to reconnect in different ways. In cooking with your children you can practice and reinforce the math of proportionality and fractions; in walking in the park, you can observe signs of spring unique to our ecosystem; in the clear night sky this week you will find an opportunity to see Jupiter, Saturn and Mars; if you and your child are present in the moment, you can see the world through a writer’s eyes and capture this time in writing; and as your child reads the latest independent reading novel, stop to ask how to describe the main character or suggest a title to a chapter.

Most importantly, although I am sure this situation pushes the limits of our family resources including child care, try to enjoy this unexpected and unplanned time together without the interruptions of the many scheduled events that I am sure have also been cancelled. While I would expect that this week the district will be sharing online

learning resources, please don't forget those learning opportunities that exist in our daily lives. You are your child's first and best teacher.

Finally, if you are a family in need of additional support or know that your neighbor is in need, please reach out to me via email so that I can help connect you to community resources.

Please take care during the days ahead and email me if I can help.

All the best,

Jackie Mann
Principal

mannj@newton.k12.ma.us