

Dear Oak Hill Families,

I am so grateful for the positive support and encouragement we have received toward our teachers from so many of you this week. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we all adjust to new circumstances. As I have listened in the three different virtual parent coffee meets and read in your emails, it is clear that you are wishing for our school to be able to help your children reconnect with their friends, classmates and teachers as well as continue their learning of essential skills.

I have heard from many of you that you are eager to know what the plan and expectations will be for April 6 and beyond; my colleagues and I have heard your feedback and are aware that there are a wide variety of circumstances our families now find themselves in. This feedback is useful as it informs our plan for the extended school closure. We know our plan must include an acknowledgment and respect for the diversity of situations our NPS families are experiencing, including the time and resources they have available to them.

While we just learned on Wednesday of Governor Baker's plan to keep schools closed until May 4th, we had already been planning for this longer closure. Our planning process was outlined in David Fleishman's [March 22nd email](#) to the community. **Next week, you can expect a structured plan for learning through the month of April that will include specific learning experiences for students.** This schedule will include the opportunity for students to connect with adults and their classmates and be given opportunities to practice, process, and reflect on learning.

In preparation for the roll-out of this plan, this week we have been focused on the following:

- **Practice** - our teachers and staff are reaching out to students with technology tools to see what works best in a remote learning environment. Practicing with technology tools, both for connection and learning, allows us to understand what will work in our second phase of school closure. Teachers in our school and throughout the district are trying different approaches, but they are all still

operating under the same guidance originally laid out by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- **Collaboration** - we have teams working within our school and across the district to develop a school and system wide approach and organization to remote learning. At the district level, we continue to collaborate with our neighboring districts, including Brookline, Needham, and Wellesley, who have developed plans similar to our own. We will continue to do so in the coming days, as well as working to interpret guidance from the DESE.
- **Technology deployment** - As a public school district, it is essential that we ensure all of our students have access to the learning that can occur. One piece of this is access to a device. We are continuing to identify families that need a device and delivering it to them.

Here are some of the terrific things that have been happening in school this week. Many teachers began running Meets or Zooms with your children. There were some very successful pilot "team gatherings" in 6th grade that got huge masses of kids sharing, laughing and excited to be with their teachers and their friends. Other teachers found stimulating and engaging online resources that had students reading and analyzing content and posting responses. Some teachers piloted running brief class discussions and others facilitated club meetings - like the Kindness Club! We are excited by the possibilities for enhancing learning and student connection in the days and weeks ahead.

We will be back in touch with you next week with the definitive plan for learning. In the meantime, please strongly encourage your student to participate both in the opportunities for connection with their teachers and in the enrichment activities. **It is essential that students get practice with logging into Schoology and engaging in the academic content for at least a couple of hours each day; this will serve them well as we prepare for the next phase of our distance learning plan.** It will also be helpful to get your child reading for at least 20 minutes each day. As a parent myself of a 16 and a 13 year-old, I am trying to put into practice the same routines that we are advocating for Oak Hill - so I am right there with you. I wish you a wonderful, restful weekend with your family.

Sincerely,  
John