

March 22, 2020

Dear Families,

Thanks to all of you for your support of the teachers as we all are trying our best to adapt to the new arena for supporting student learning and keeping up essential connections between teachers and students. My administrative team and I led numerous virtual meetings with faculty both as grade level teams and in their smaller specific content areas last week. We are all learning how to collaborate in Google Meet similarly to how you and your children are experimenting with Google and Zoom (and other apps). Our team has also established a system for reaching out to our families and partnering with IT and the Food Service to help get Chromebooks and food to those who need it.

I am grateful for the assorted feedback that I have received from many parents this past week. We are all experiencing the social isolation challenge and the consequences of dealing with social distancing. I have heard from many of you that your children are eager to engage with their teachers and with their fellow students. They are craving more connection and social interaction. Our teachers want to connect with your children and are excited to re-establish these positive routines. I appreciate the emails from parents who use several tools in their own work and have kindly offered to help us - this offering to help take care of others is another example of the strength of the Oak Hill community!

For this week specifically the teachers will be sharing more specific learning activities that will help engage your children. Our emphasis is to provide families with resources that they can use to reinforce skills and knowledge that have been previously taught. It will be helpful to sit down with your child to get on to Schoology and see the postings from your children's teachers and help map out a routine. **To help manage the flow of communication and not overwhelm students or parents**, you and your children will receive a letter from your team teachers (math, science, history/social studies and English) tomorrow, March 23 that will outline the activities that are closely connected to their content areas. Then, on Tuesday, March 24, the multi-team teachers will be sending their individual communications by subject. Students will have much more work to do and they will be able see these postings on Schoology. Our teachers will be checking their emails daily.

And speaking of community, I'd like to invite you to join a Meet with me during this week to say hello, ask a question and share your own creative ideas for supporting your children during this time. Our faculty has found it is a little tricky to have a discussion that exceeds 20 people so I am going to offer three times next week to join a

grade level meet with other Oak Hill parents and I. So we don't exceed the 20 person threshold, I am asking you to confirm your spot in the Sign-Up Genius below. Once you confirm your spot, please simply click on the meet link that is associated with the meet to join on the day. Depending on the response, I will make adjustments in the weeks ahead. My goal is to make sure that you have a place to hear from other parents and be able to talk to me and ask questions.

[Click here to go to the Sign-Up Genius](#)



Oak Hill Middle School
Virtual Meets with John

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

Created by:  John Harutunian ✕

Date (mm/dd/yyyy EDT)	Location	Available Slot	Calendar View
03/23/2020 (Mon. 1:00pm - 1:45pm)	Grade 6 Meet	Meeting Participants (up to 20) (20) Sign Up	
03/25/2020 (Wed. 7:30am - 8:15am)	Grade 7 Meet	Meeting Participants (up to 20) (20) Sign Up	
03/26/2020 (Thu. 7:00pm - 7:45pm)	Grade 8 Meet	Meeting Participants (up to 20) (20) Sign Up	

Once you have signed up for a meet, please remember to click on the meet link to join our meeting when it is about to begin.

[Grade 6 Meet 1pm to 1:45, March 23](#)

[Grade 7 Meet 7:30am to 8:15am, March 25](#)

[Grade 8 Meet 7pm to 7:45, March 26](#)

Other reminders:

- NPS has created online resources for middle school called "[NPS Learning from Home](#)".
- Information about special education and student services during COVID-19 are available here: [Student Services / Department Overview](#)

- Guidance counselors will be available to connect families with community resources and offer social emotional support. They are also a resource for questions about connecting with teachers.
- Special Education Liaisons will continue to be in touch to ensure that students on their caseload have access to enrichment activities and to support students' social emotional needs through virtual connections.
- [Click here if you wish to know "Who do you ask?"](#)
- Our administration team will be available to respond to any of your parental inquiries. The best way to reach our team is through email:
 - John Harutunian, Principal - harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us
 - Dr. Jamin Bercaw, Assistant Principal - bercawj@newton.k12.ma.us
 - Ms. Amy Geer, Assistant Principal Student Services - geera@newton.k12.ma.us
 - Ms. Fiona Healy, Assistant Principal - healyf@newton.k12.ma.us

If you have any questions or there are any ways I can help, please email me.

We are all in this together! Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

John

harutunianj@newton.k12.ma.us