



Winfield Township School
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March 17, 2020

Good Afternoon, Winfield Township School Family.

As we move forward with great uncertainty ahead, we wanted to provide parents with a few resources that may guide you in your conversations with your children. Over the past two months as the public discussion of COVID-19 has taken place our children have witnessed the increased anxiety and fear of the adults. Our kids are scared; they sense the collective angst of the adults.

We need to be the calm voice in our children's lives. As we step into this closure, while we have announced that we are closed until further notice, we strongly recommend we quickly come to the reality that this may be a proposition that lasts many weeks or possibly a couple months. To that end, we must work together to support one another. We must be mindful of the social and emotional needs of our children. Stick to routines. Uncertainty breeds anxiety. Being rooted in routines and predictability is helpful. We must stick to facts and be reassuring. News agencies can sensationalize situations. We must be factual. We should never ignore our children's concerns. Rather, we can explain the proactive steps we are taking as a community to protect one another. We can provide them with moments of peace and joy.

As a result, as of this afternoon, we have turned off OnCourse Portals for all students and parents. Teachers will continue to grade assignments, but this is not a time for us to have any additional worries or frustrations on the part of families or students. In due time we will figure out the potential impacts to 3rd quarter grades. Furthermore, all OnCourse grade and attendance notifications have been disabled.

We can educate our children on how to stay healthy. Giving children guidance on what they can do to prevent infection provides them with a greater sense of control over disease spread and will help to reduce their anxiety. Giving children guidance on what they can do to prevent infection gives them a greater sense of control over disease spread and will help to reduce their anxiety.

Children should:

- Wash hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover their mouths with a tissue when they sneeze or cough and throw away the tissue immediately, or sneeze or cough into the bend of their elbow.
- Do not share food or drinks.
- Give fist or elbow bumps instead of handshakes or high fives. Fewer germs are spread this way.

Please make use of our website! The plan is in place for remote learning. There is a link called “Remote Digital Learning” on our homepage. Most of our students are utilizing digital tools like Google Classroom and Google Drive. Our math program has a workbook that will continue to be used as we move through the curriculum. Preschool and kindergarten teachers have created content that can be used at home to give even our youngest learners the chance to continue the growth they’ve started this year. Students will not be asked to logon at the same time to be a part of “class”. Each teacher will provide their classes with the work that needs to be done. Students will be expected to complete the daily activities.

Communication to your students’ teachers is open. Feel free to email them to get information. Many of the staff will offer “office hours” when they’re sure to be online as a way of ensuring that you can get answers to questions almost instantly.

Colorado superintendent, Darrin Peppard had this to say in regards to the preparation and procedures taken in response to this disease: “In the end, it will be impossible to know if we overreacted or did too much, but it will be quite apparent if we under reacted or did too little.” We don’t know much about this situation, but we will continue to keep you up-to-date as more information comes available. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy. All my best to each of you and your families.

Thank you,

Ross LeBrun