

May 15, 2020

Hello GFB Families:

By now I am optimistic that all families are frequent visitors to the Remote Learning tab on our school's website. This is the hub of your child's learning experience and includes several resources that should serve him/her well now and going forward. Here's a bit of a summary about what you can find within each of the four sections of the Remote Learning tab.

The "home-learning parent info" section provides a status of school closure. At this time and with no suggestion the Commissioner intends to further revise the remote learning experience, I am not anticipating any updates. With that said however, it's not a bad idea to check that from time to time.

The "video library for students" section is just that; a library of the videos we have shared that students can access as they choose. It can be comforting to students who miss seeing their friends and many of our school staff. Although the parent info and video library section do not relate directly to student learning, they can be helpful. The "student daily activities" and "online resources/opportunities" sections are the essentials for students while learning from home. To take full advantage of both, understand that they are useful in different ways.

The "student daily activities" section includes "structured daily focus lessons and activities" for pk, kindergarten, first and second grade students. These lessons target previously covered content as well as the power standards identified (new learning we are targeting) for each grade level. Instruction for all core content areas, specials and social-emotional learning are included. Lessons most often feature video-recorded instruction as well as follow-up activities to reinforce learning. These lessons build on each other meaning that there is a logical order to coverage. It is for that reason that we strongly urge students to engage in these lessons and activities daily and at a time that works optimally for students and their families. Please note that the time referenced for each subject will vary depending on student learning needs and skills.

Opportunities for regular engagement with teachers, specialists and peers are also referenced within the structured daily focus lessons and activities document. Students can join a session at any time within the scheduled meeting time and when the time is right for their family dynamic. Due to the age of our students parents/guardians/caregivers will most likely need to assist students in logging onto the Zoom platform, the platform we use to connect directly with students. When accessing one of the specialist's Zooms, please be sure to reference the latest meeting ID and password information that was sent to you via email by your child's classroom teacher. Please pay careful attention to the meeting id and passwords that teachers provide for all zooms, as they are case sensitive. We recognize that not all students will be able to participate in all or any of these scheduled opportunities and that's okay as these experiences are optional.

The online resources/opportunities document has quite a bit of value to students, too. Resources are broken down by grade level, content and also include support for our ELL and Special Education populations. These resources, many of which are familiar to our students, will keep students independently engaged. With that in mind, they can be used flexibly and as a reinforcement to current or previous instruction. We add to these resources each time new and useful ones come to our attention so it makes good sense to check it often.

If used regularly and with focused intent, the learning experiences and activities we have provided will go a long way in maintaining your students' skills and preparing him/her for the next grade level. And please be reminded access to teachers for needed clarification and/or to share student work is just an email away.

We recognize the enormous challenge you are experiencing in stepping in for us as your child's teacher. We have put considerable thought, planning and effort into helping you support your student. We feel confident that with your best efforts and our commitment to supporting you, your child will continue to learn from the most important person in his/her world...you!

Your Partner in Education,  
*Mrs. Pearson, Principal*