

May 8, 2020

Hello GFB Families:

This Fort Report comes to you on a Friday as will all others for the remainder of this school year. It will formally introduce you to our revised Remote Learning Plan and Schedule, [CLICK HERE](#). This revised document is in response to the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Educations' most recent (April, 2020) Guidance for Massachusetts districts and schools. So what can you expect in view of this latest guidance? The following are the notable differences between the remote learning plans currently posted and those that will post today:

- Recorded lessons that provide clear instruction that is connected to power standards.
- Learning plans that include suggested time dedicated to specific content areas/lessons.
- A suggested daily schedule for students that promotes endurance in academic thinking.
- Opportunities for face to face time with teacher and classroom peers.

Our remote learning plans are being designed to mirror, as closely as possible, the structure of our students' typical school day. The revised plan enhances our approach to supporting students and will include teacher recorded instruction, structured learning activities and reinforcement activities. These plans, like those teachers prepare when students learn in our classrooms, are planned collectively by the entire grade level team. In addition to making this work manageable for our teachers, it ensures that all students are being provided with comparable learning experiences.

There is no change to how the Structured Daily Focus Lessons and Activities are accessed. What will change however is that, like the Fort Report, this document will be posted on Fridays. We hope this will assist families who benefit from weekend days in preparing their student for the following week's learning.

Many of the enhanced approaches to instruction rely on multiple types and uses of technology. Like the diversity we see in our students, teachers have varying abilities and experiences in using technology. With this in mind, and as teachers currently hustle to adjust to this new and different approach to teaching, pre-recorded instruction this week includes instructive commercially produced videos. Beginning the week of May 18th however, pre-recorded instruction will be delivered by grade level teachers in a rotating fashion.

Like you, our staff have their own set of personal and professional obligations. Sharing of technology devices, working around their own family's needs, scheduled staff meetings and the time-intensive task of researching and developing remote learning opportunities leave a small window of "unscheduled" time. As a result, and in consideration of our staff's logistical needs virtual meetings with students will be held consistently at the specific times scheduled for each classroom. These virtual meetings will not include instruction and are entirely optional. They are however great opportunities for students to connect with peers, teachers and get clarification in learning. Parents/caregivers are reminded that teachers remain available by email to address any questions or concerns about their student's learning.

A special thank you to the PTO for the awesome Teacher Appreciation Day video! We truly appreciate your never-ending thoughtfulness and this especially awesome gesture of gratitude. The message from each and every student was so sweet and we thank you beyond words.

It's a needy time in our world as we continue to adjust to educational, economic and social challenges. These challenges can divide or unite us. Let's view these challenging times as an opportunity to develop the ultimate partnership...a partnership that revolves around your child.

Your Partner in Education,
Mrs. Pearson, Principal