

Elementary School Board Update April 14th

As the situation with Covid 19 has changed rapidly so has the work of the elementary building. The elementary school sent chromebooks home for 4&5th graders and also prepared work packets for elementary students 4K-5. At the beginning teachers worked on Mondays and prepared work/activities for their students to do Tuesdays through Fridays. Tuesdays were pick up drop off days with teachers providing work packets and varying resources that could be picked up in the elementary vestibule area or if the parents expressed a need we would drop off and pick up materials by the buses that were delivering breakfast and lunches. Teachers provided support as students worked on the work/activities through frequent communication between the staff and parents/guardians/students.

When the situation changed and staff wasn't able to be in the building, staff created materials for one final drop off pick/up day which was held on April 8th, 8-noon. This was a curbside drop off and pick up with some of our instructional assistants present to assist. Social Distancing was strictly enforced. When the car pulled up to the curb they would hold up a slip of paper with the name of the student and the name of the teacher written on it. The instructional assistants working would then get the materials for that student, take to the vehicle window, and both give and collect materials for the student through the vehicle window.

Communication between staff and families has been and will continue to be strongly encouraged and many teachers are at different points of instruction and at different points with the materials/resources they provided for their students. For example some teachers provided work/activities for a longer period of time than others but through the communication with their families we hope that all students will continue to experience growth.

We understand that what we are providing can't replace the instruction that would normally take place. Right now our goal is to try to alleviate some of the anxiety and stress that our families might be experiencing and not to contribute to it. As we reach a time when prepared work/activity packets can't be sent home we will recommend 30 minutes/school day of reading/reading activities, 30 minutes/school day of math/math activities, 60 minutes/school day of creative activities, and 60 minutes of exercise/physical play. Communication is the key and the communication we have with our families will be a time for us to provide ideas for the recommended times given above or for families to ask any questions they might have.

I have check in meetings weekly with the teaching staff (including teachers, school counselor, school psychologist and school social worker) and office staff utilizing Zoom, Google Hangouts and Webex and have also communicated with staff through email, phone calls, and text messaging. We have discussed the work we are currently doing with our families, assessment of student work, EE staff updates, and updates on summer school and current relevant topics. We are also starting discussions on how instruction at the elementary level will need to look differently when we start school next fall.

Communication is the key and what we stress. This communication is stressed both internally and externally. I have been extremely impressed with the work of all of our staff and this includes teachers, instructional assistants, office staff, our nurse, and custodians. I also appreciate the support of Tahar and the bus company. It was impressive to me to see how everyone came together during this time.

I am available for any questions you might have through email, phone call or text. My phone number is 715-216-6265 call or text any time. If you choose to text, I just ask that you let me know at the beginning of the text who I'm communicating with.