

## Elementary School Board Report May 12

The below letter was sent home at the end of April. The letter below that will be sent home in place of a third trimester report card at the end of the school year. When I thought about how to update you, I feel these two letters clearly show where the elementary is currently at. We continue to stress communication with our students and families. I would say though we have experienced a slight shift since the April 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting. April 14<sup>th</sup> we were concerned equally with the student's academic growth and with the student's physical/emotional health. We are still concerned with the elementary student's academic growth but we are far more concerned right now with our students and family's physical and emotional health.

I continue to be impressed with the work of my staff and if there is any positive that comes out of this situation I would say the pulling together of the district's staff for our students and district families will be something that we can be very proud of.

Parents/Guardians:

We will be having a work/materials drop off for any finished work or materials that you wish to return to the school for your child's teachers.

On Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 8-10 a.m. and Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 4-6 p.m. will be curbside work/materials drop off times. We will have three instructional assistants present to help on those two days. Please remain in your cars and have your work/materials labeled with your child's name and their teacher's name. Instructional assistants will come to your vehicle.

I understand that there have been questions about additional work packets being given out by teachers. Some grade level teachers provided work packets that will take children to the end of the school year and some grade level teachers provided one to two weeks of work with the packets they have provided. If your child is finished with the packets that have been provided we won't be sending home additional work packets but we are recommending the following:

30 minutes of reading activities/day

30 minutes of math activities /day

60 minutes of creative play/day

60 minutes of active play/day

We aren't trying to create more stress or anxiety for you, so these are just recommendations not requirements. If you would like some suggestions or some fun ideas to try at home communicate with your child's teachers. I'm encouraging all teachers to continue to communicate with you so if you have questions please let us know. If I can be of any assistance, call the school I do get those messages or send me an email.

Speaking for the staff, we miss our students. This goes beyond work packets or the above recommended minutes. If work packets or minutes are causing you stress let us know. We want to see learning and growth continue for your students but more important than that right now is your families physical and emotional health.

Guy Steckbauer

Date

Dear Parent(s) and Guardians,

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Continuity of Learning, we are sending this letter home in lieu of our traditional report cards, for this last trimester. Your child has had the opportunity to be exposed to learning and the standards in various ways: take-home packets, Google Classrooms/Hangouts, Zoom Meetings, phone calls, emails, etc. Individual teachers and grade levels presented the work in ways which they felt were most beneficial to the needs of their students and families.

Although your child is not receiving the typical grading mark on their work, the effort of students and parents has been noted and places much value toward their education. Your child's learning is a true reflection of the work that was put into it.

As we are aware, this process has been very challenging and, at times, frustrating for everyone involved. However, you need to be reminded that there has been much evidence of learning that has taken place, such as being patient, learning to be creative, communicating in writing, advocating for yourself, self motivating, organizing your time, improving technology skills, persevering through challenges and taking responsibility for your learning. These are all valuable skills that are essential in life. For this we should all be very proud.

This may not have been the perfect process of learning, nevertheless, learning *has* taken place, and we have all done it together. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," and here is a prime example. Thank you parents and guardians for all of your hard work in making Continuity of Learning a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

Continue to stay safe and healthy, and enjoy your summer. You have all earned it!