

April 17, 2020

Dear Friends:

To apply an educational construct to our lives at home and at school, we are *monitoring and adjusting*. Our lives, our living and our 'virtual learning curriculum' are continually evolving. At the heart of all great teaching and learning, which incidentally, has *always* been at the core of the program at Primary Day, *monitoring and adjusting* is grounded in the belief that differentiated, developmentally appropriate programming is both flexible and purposeful. This you know and, as we navigate these unprecedented times together, our collective efforts to realize our mission are key to our children's success.

In the days since the launch of our distance learning program, we have worked hard to *monitor and adjust* in response to the ever-changing needs of our families and children. Just this afternoon, Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent of Education, extended the closure of the public schools in Maryland through May 15, 2020, with a potential return on Monday, May 18. With the health and safety of our extended community a paramount concern, we will abide by this mandate.

We will continue to 'pivot' as appropriate for as long as we are educating your children away from campus. As parents, you are intimately aware of what distance learning looks like for your child(ren) and how teachers have organized grade level learning plans, but you may not enjoy a full understanding of the total program. A description of our comprehensive plan is noted below.

Be reassured that, with your support, your children are learning and growing as they should. With that said, I have two requests. When your child joins a Zoom lesson, please make certain that his/her name is visible. For security reasons, we might not admit someone to a lesson that is not readily recognizable. In addition, please ensure your child is connected and allow them to independently engage in the lessons, to the extent possible, without parent support.

Warmly,



Scott Lawrence
Head of School

Virtual Learning At Primary Day

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

- Comprehensive learning plans developed by homeroom teachers and sent to families each Sunday afternoon, including a detailed list of all Zoom opportunities.
- Zoom lessons (1/2 class – 30 minutes) with teaching teams – three days each week
- Zoom lessons (small group – 30 minutes) with individual teachers – two days per week
- Zoom lessons (1/2 class – 30 minutes) with 2-3 special area teachers every week with each child receiving five specialist lessons in a two-week period, according to a revised schedule*
- A full complement of special area activities developed for each grade level each week (including instructional videos in some areas) that can be enjoyed at independent times
- Individual Zoom, Facetime and/or telephone calls scheduled with each child each week to check-in, provide learning feedback or personal learning reinforcement
- Daily emails from homeroom teachers to insure consistent communication between home and school
- Lunch with Mr. Lawrence each week – my favorite time of day!

Grades One and Two

- Comprehensive learning plans developed by homeroom teachers and sent to families each Sunday afternoon, including a detailed list of all Zoom opportunities
- Zoom lessons (1/2 class – 45 minutes) with homeroom teachers – five days each week
- Zoom lessons (1/2 class – 45 minutes) with the math specialist – once per week
- Zoom lessons (1/2 class – 30 minutes) with 2 special area teachers every week according to a recently revised schedule*
- A full complement of special area activities developed for each grade level each week (including instructional videos in some areas) that can be enjoyed at independent times
- Individual Zoom, Facetime and/or telephone calls scheduled with each child each week to check-in, provide learning feedback or personal learning reinforcement
- Daily emails from homeroom teachers to insure consistent communication between home and school
- Lunch with Mr. Lawrence each week – my favorite time of the week!



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**Note: our revised specialist schedule has been organized to insure that Zoom classes are planned for each class/group at the same times each week on alternating days. Some classes may be repeated as a result. Thanks for understanding*