



West Meadow Elementary School Where Everyone Learns and Belongs

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Dear Parents and Guardians of At-Home Learning Students.

We are excited to welcome students and families back to school for the 2020-2021 School Year. Given the circumstances associated with Covid-19, education doesn't look the same for everybody. Some students will be at school, while others, like your children, will be involved in at-home learning. Typically, the best place for student learning is at school, where all our resources are allocated. However, we understand your decision for at-home learning and will strive to provide the best experience possible given all of the current circumstances.

West Meadow Elementary School at-home learning for grades 5-6 will be provided by myself. Keeping our students connected to our school by providing a face that most students know well was essential in our plan on meeting our student's needs. Between my experience teaching different grades, and my focus on the importance of connecting with students, I hope I can support the at-home learning for our students while they are waiting to transition into the regular classroom.

Even through these uncertain times, the ultimate goal for our students is to have them transition back into the regular classroom as soon as families feel comfortable. This is where the majority of our resources have been allocated, and where we have the best opportunity at providing a meaningful, dynamic and engaging educational experience. When families are ready to begin the transition back to the classroom for in-school learning, we ask that they initiate a conversation with school administration. We will work to find a transition time that balances planning requirements, student needs and effective integration into their homeroom classroom at WMES. While each individual situation is unique, it may take up to a few makes to find a natural transition time that accomplishes our goals.

Here are some things to consider around what you can expect with at-home learning this year.

Things to consider:

- Parents, your involvement is crucial. This is hard work, but being involved with your child's learning provides support and it lets your child know that you value their education.
- There will be opportunities for students to be involved with online sessions with their teacher and classmates. Participating in these is expected as we look to support and extend the learning that is done at home. This will also ensure that students have an opportunity to be assessed, ask questions, confirm ideas, participate in classroom collaborative activities, and build learning relationships with their online peers.
- Independent learning will be possible through pre-recorded lessons, digital assignments, and practice work provided by our online teacher.
- A reliable internet connection and access to working technology with video/audio, will be necessary for your child to participate and learn effectively. Use of a headset/earphones with a microphone (such as those often included with a smartphone) are encouraged, as it minimizes feedback during group discussions.

General overview:

- Regular online sessions will be scheduled throughout the week. We are expecting approximately an hour of video instruction/connection every day. There will also be approximately 10-15 hours of independent work time expected. More information on what the individual weeks look like will come in the near future.
- The instructional focus will be and be in the four core subjects of English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. We will strive to mirror the content being taught in your child's home class, however, lessons and activities will not be exactly the same as in school. This will allow for an easier transition back into the school when the students are ready.
- The primary platforms we will be using are Google Meets, Google Classroom and Hapara. Tutorials on the use of these platforms will be provided to students and parents/guardians through the first weeks of school.

Student expectations:

- Attend online sessions and connect early to make sure devices are working properly. Younger students may need help.
- Work on course material during the school day.
- Submit assignments on a regular basis.
- Follow digital citizenship guidelines and expectations

The first week of school for at-home learning students will be about connecting, building relationships, learning and practicing technology and setting up for the school year. Curriculum work will begin the week after that. This would be very similar to the experience of our in-school classrooms. You and your child can expect contact from myself at some point during the first week of school.

We are excited to begin this new year with you and your children. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Sean Latta
Principal