

6 Waits River Valley Road
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Principal

April 10, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all healthy, taking care of each other, and finding some time to enjoy the Spring changes outside. Your family and your health are of course the first priority.

I wanted to take a moment and update you on where we are at with your child(ren)'s distance learning world with WRVS. First, and foremost, we miss them and each other more than we could begin to describe to you. The staff and I are trying very hard to reach out to you to continue the imperative relationship we have had with them and with you. Allowing us "into" your homes for this is new; it's so different, but so appreciated. The class meetings, phone calls and/or office hours your child's teacher sends to you/them is a time they can be a part of their class; to share, laugh and continue to grow as a learning community. Thank you for allowing this to happen. We need them, you, and each other.

Monday, April 13th will start a new phase of our plan. Each of the grades are finalizing their *Continuity of Learning* plans for submission to me tomorrow afternoon. This plan is an 8-week outline of new learning focus, delivery model, and assessment strategies, planned for all of the content areas they teach. It is a huge endeavor that they have had this week to plan and organize. They are all doing such an amazing job; WRVS is filled with the most professional and accountable teachers.

These weekly plans will allow them to send each of you a weekly syllabus outlining specific daily/weekly outcomes, materials, and assessment strategies. It will be a weekly document that allows you to see the daily need. The following guidance we have received from the State of Vermont outlines the recommendation of the maximum time of academic engagement by each scholar in remote learning activities:

Total Daily Maximum Academic Engagement Time: For our younger scholars, it would be advisable to break up the work tasks into not more than 20-30 minutes depending on the type of task they are doing.

- ⇒ K-2: 90 min/day
- ⇒ 3-5: 120 min/day
- ⇒ 6-8: 180 min/day

We understand that our scholars need time with their family, they need time to explore and play, and they need time to rest. Direct instructional time is very different from a day at school; we know and value that.

We will begin monitoring attendance through the work, online activity, emails, phone calls, and any virtual meetings the scholars attend. Your teachers will be reaching out to the scholars and you. We are a support for YOU always. Please do not hesitate to contact your teachers or me. As your child completes work, please keep it; we will collect it when we are advised that it is safe to do so. Additionally, we ask that if you can, please take a photo of their work and email it to their teacher when and if their teacher indicates to do so as

part of a weekly lesson. If they are using Google Classroom their work is visible to their teachers at all times and allows for continuous feedback (no need for photos). Google Classroom has been part of our 3-8 programming; scholars are familiar with this. If your child's teacher is using another online platform (i.e. Class Dojo, Seesaw, etc.) please submit their work to your child's portfolio.

We know that some families are not able to access work online due to not having an Internet connection. We will send paper copies of alternative work to those scholars. If you have notified us that paper is preferred, this will be different work (of the same content/outcome) for your child but they will have EXACTLY the same skills learned/focused on. If you would prefer to have paper AND online, we ask that you print the materials from online, allowing scholars to not wait for the mail and allowing us to focus on the mailings for those who do not have Internet as an option, as our first priority.

Some Calendar Updates:

- **Friday, April 10:** We are using this day as a work day to complete the Continuity of Learning plans and prepare/send the materials necessary to start our new learning stage on Monday. There will not be any direct instruction from our teachers, rather they will use it as professional development. The Magic Food Bus will still run its normal schedule with delivery of food for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Friday, April 17:** This is an In-service day as indicated on the school's calendar. There will be no school for scholars and our staff will use the day to prepare materials for scholars for the week following April vacation. The Magic Food Bus will still run its normal schedule with delivery of food for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Monday, April 20 - Friday April 24:** April Vacation. No School. The Magic Food Bus will still run its normal Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule with seven days of meals being delivered.

We can't say enough how much we miss all of you, how much we realize that this is not typical, and that we have no past experience to gauge this on. We are all learning as we go, all giving 150% daily, and all willing to help you in any way we can.

We do not desire to overwhelm you and we do not desire to cause you any unnecessary stress. If you are having ANY difficulty, ANY individual needs that we can help you with, ANY need to problem solve or celebrate, PLEASE reach out to your child's teacher or to me. We are a team and a community always.

Hug and kiss each of those scholars for us. I can't wait to see them in their class meetings next week. It is going to be the highlight of my weekend as I plan for them.

All my love,

Carlotta Perantoni

Principal

Waits River Valley School

