March 17, 2020

Greetings K-8 Families:

I hope this email finds you healthy and safe! This letter will provide important information for understanding and accessing your child’s remote learning materials. The teachers and staff have worked hard to prepare pre-recorded lessons, independent learning activities, and drop in help sessions online through Google Meet.

Each day there will subject areas that are the focus for the day. There will be pre-recorded lessons to watch, activities for students to complete on their own, and an assignment that will be due to the teacher by the end of the night and count as a formative grade in the course. This will give families flexibility to decide when during the day to complete the pre-recorded lesson and activities, because only the drop in help session will be live. On the days of pre-recorded lessons, there will also be online drop-in help with teachers that can be accessed through Google Meet online or through a call-in number that can be used to call into the drop-in help session. Each day will also include a sprinkling of independent learning activities for any additional subjects that do not have direct remote learning on that day. You can find the Remote Learning Student Schedule linked here.

The virtual instruction will begin on Monday, March 23rd, but there will be practice learning activities available starting on Wednesday, March 18th. We ask that your children begin these learning activities on Wednesday, March 18th to get in the habit of doing academic learning at home. The plans will be available no later than 6am each day. You might also notice that the remote lessons are being taught by various teachers within the grade level - for example each Kindergarten teacher is remote teaching a subject for the whole grade. This is to ensure our teachers are able to have a flexible schedule and spend time with their families as well.

In order to give families a chance to try Google Meet, we will be hosting a test session and storytime on Thursday, March 19th at 7pm with Mr. Bullock. You can find the link for the event on our school website and on our school Google calendar. We hope you find this event helpful in getting used to this remote learning experience! You also should know that Google Meet can be used by a teacher to call your phone - please note that it will come up as a ‘212’ area code or as ‘No Caller ID’.

We have created a one-stop-shop of information and resources on our NFCS website NFCSonline.org. On the website is a ‘K-12 Remote Learning’ tap listed on the top menu. On the new webpage you can find important information about this initiative:

- Two versions of the student schedule; one that is friendly for our students to understand
- Norms on how to set up and be prepared for learning at home and online
- Direct links to each grade’s lesson plans for students
- Dates and times for school-wide activities or special events that will be hosted online
- Suggested schedules for your children and family resources
- Contacts for who to reach out to when you need help

In addition, I’ve created a video orientation to show you around our plan and the webpage that you can watch by clicking here. The 7 minute video will help you understand the format of the schedule and how to access the student lessons by grade.

Teaching and learning in this way is new for all of us - and we ask you to be patient with us as we all learn together. Please make sure you reach out if you need support or have questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this effort!

Ms. Woolf Cohen
K8 Principal