March 23, 2020

Greetings K8 Families:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and getting used to this temporary "normal". I have been thinking about each of our families, and wishing you all the best in this challenging time. As a school community, we will continue to care for each other by being in touch, providing pre-recorded lessons by our teachers, facilitating virtual check-ins by special education teachers and counselors, and hosting school-wide activities. We hope you find these supports and resources to be helpful.

This letter will provide some updates on our K8 Remote Learning Initiative. In addition, I hope you'll watch this short update video to help you understand more about what we have planned.

This week starts our pre-recorded lessons, collecting of student assignments, and virtual drop-in help sessions with students. You can find all of this information for each grade at http://www.nfcsonline.org/homepage/remotelearning/

Our teachers have been working to ensure there are activities, videos, and resources for student learning available to families. Each day has a plan, with all of the activities available for students to complete. We have separated the activities into two sections.

- The first section has Virtual Instruction activities for the day, that include teacher interactions and assignments that should be submitted by the end of that day. Virtual Instruction will only take place in a maximum of TWO SUBJECTS per day.
- The second section has additional learning activities for ALL OTHER SUBJECTS that will not be turned into teachers, and are flexible for completion. We want families to be able to decide how many of these additional activities they want their children to do based on your own families needs.

Our team of teachers and staff are available to support you. We believe our 4th - 8th graders can easily navigate the plans independently, while our K-3 students may need some support in navigating what activities to complete. If you have questions after reviewing the plan, please reach out to the assigned teacher between the hours of 7am and 7pm during which you can expect a reply within 2 hours. Outside of these hours you can expect a reply once the window opens again. We are working to be flexible in communication with families so we can meet everyone’s needs for support.
You might notice that the teacher assigning work now is different from your child’s teacher when we are in school. Each teacher’s name and contact information is located directly on the plan for the day. You can also find a full list of the teacher assignments on the Virtual Instruction webpage. Our special education teachers, counselors, and specialists are also available for support, and have a proactive plan to continue to meet the needs of students with academic, social, or emotional concerns. If you have questions about your child’s services, please reach out to their assigned case manager.

We are continuing to plan and reflect on the services we provide to our school community during this challenging time. Your feedback will be requested through a survey next week that will help us know how we are doing. This is a learning experience for everyone, and we want to ensure a successful initiative.

Please use our website http://www.nfcsonline.org/homepage/remotelearning/ as a resource for your family, student learning, online resources, and for NFCS updates. We will continue to post information we hope is useful for you.

If I can be of any help, or you are finding barriers to completing the Virtual Instruction lessons, please reach out. We are all in this together.

Sending health, happiness, and sanity your way. Thanks for being our partner in education now more than ever!

Sincerely,
Ms. Woolf Cohen