



Linden Elementary School

School Update

April 9, 2020

Dear Linden families,

As we begin the official Spring Break, I hope you are able to enjoy some relaxing and refreshing time with your families. I wanted to once again *thank you* for your support and understanding. I truly appreciate the many emails of gratitude and support that we have received from our families.

Today's news brings a plethora of emotions, as I know many of us were hoping we would return to school at some point this school year. I am disappointed as is our staff, and I can imagine our students and families are as well. However, I understand that the health and well-being of our community is of the utmost importance during this pandemic. With today's news, there will be many questions and concerns that will need to be addressed, and parents may want answers now. We will continue to find ways to celebrate some special occasions that happen during the spring and end of the school year. Please know that we will take the time and much consideration before final decisions will be made.

I would like to share some encouraging words moving forward. In many of my recent communications, I have talked about *patience, understanding, and flexibility*. These values are truly essentials for all of us during this unprecedented time and in life. As we close the first week of "Phase 2" and required participation, I am sure that I can summarize the challenge faced by all of us over the past week...

Your child or children are now required to participate in Online Distance Learning. You have one laptop, which you need for your own work, a phone, and maybe a tablet in the house. You are trying to read each teacher's website, help your children access the links and log into Seesaw or Teams, help your children complete the work, and help your children figure out how to post their work back to the teacher, then move to the next subject, and do it again. All this while possibly working yourself and trying to take care of the many other things and/or challenges that need your attention...

If that sounds familiar, please know *you are not alone!* This is new, uncharted territory for all of us. Teachers are trying their best, and you are trying your best. Many teachers are facing the same challenges as you are with their own children, and schooling/teaching requirements. As we move towards a prolonged school closing, please take a deep breath, be patient with us, your teacher, your child, and yourself. Sooner, rather than later, we will all find some semblance of routine. Yes, we are in a phase of mandatory participation, but please know that we understand if students are unable to complete every assignment all the time ~ that is OK. Our teachers will continue to provide feedback on assignments, encourage your children, and communicate with you ~ just like they would do during typical school. Please encourage your children to do their best and keep communicating with us.

The teachers, staff, Dr. Graz, and I will help make this work to meet your family's needs. Keep in mind, our distance learning plan is not focused on student assessment and grading right now, rather it is focused on student learning. We want our children to remain connected to their teachers and classmates, while also being engaged intellectually.

As always, remember we are all in this together, and we need to take care of each other. Enjoy your time off from schoolwork this weekend! Wishing all of our families a wonderful *Spring Break, a Happy Passover, and Happy Easter* to those who celebrate. Take care of you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mike Testani

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