

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE



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March 31, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I sit here trying to think of the perfect thing to say to ease your concerns about what decisions have been made in the last few weeks, and what will happen in the coming weeks, I realize there are no perfect words. We have been dealt an imperfect situation and there are no words that can change that. Please know first and foremost that we love and miss your students and recognize what a tough situation that this has put us all in. The things that I can tell you are as follows. After much thought and discussion our plan moving forward for Pre-K - First grade distance learning was two fold. First, we have sent each student this packet that includes traditional paper/pencil activities as well as suggested websites and other hands-on activities that you can do with your children. The "suggested" time that students should be engaged in "distance" learning during the day is 45 minutes for PK and Kindergarten and 60 minutes for first grade. The second part of our plan is to remain connected to you and your student. Please understand that for us, this is probably more essential than the "academics." We will be doing that through any or all of the following: Zoom classroom meetings, Facebook pages(both grade-level/classroom or the Elgin Elementary page), and communication APPs that you were already utilizing with your classroom teacher. It is important to our staff that we continue that connection with your student. As I stated in an earlier message on Facebook please give yourself grace during this time. You are meant to parent and not have to teach. Enjoy this time with your child and know that time well spent together and "life lessons" are going to be just as valuable during this time. Have fun, cook together, play games, READ every single day, and take virtual field trips. Give yourself permission to not worry about this. Your students completed three fourths of their year and were exposed to the Oklahoma Academic Standards they needed.

Our distance learning will officially be five weeks in duration, April 6th-May 8th. This time cannot adversely affect your students' grade, so the work we are providing and the activities we are suggesting are for ENRICHMENT. Essentially, they will receive the grade they currently had when they left for Spring Break, it cannot be lowered during the distance learning. However, if you are not happy with their current grade you will be able to return the work in their packets by either scanning it and emailing it to their teacher, or taking a picture of it and sending it to them. This specifically refers to FIRST grade as they are the only one of our grade levels that

receives grades. Parents of first graders if you have further questions about that your child's teacher can clarify that with you.

I have also included in these packets the pre-enrollment forms for our CURRENT students. This is NOT enrollment for Pre-K 2020-2021. Pre-K enrollment for next year has not been rescheduled at this point, as we have to wait until we are given the all clear to be back in the buildings. When the dates are scheduled they will be posted on Facebook and the Elgin Public School website. You can fill out the enrollment forms and mail them back to the school at the address listed on the top of this letter. If you would rather, you may also wait until we get the all clear to be back in the buildings to drop them off. I will say that we cannot put your student into a classroom for next year until we have that enrollment paperwork back. At this time there is not currently a plan in place to get your students materials to them that were left in the classrooms, again, because we cannot gather at the schools. When a decision has been made about how that will happen we will let you know.

In closing, we can only do this as a team. Now more than ever the teacher/parent connection is vital. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or myself if you have questions. We are here for you and your student. We are hoping at a later date to have the opportunity for us to say good-bye to your child and for them to say good-bye to their classmates. We need that closure as much as they do. We hope that our country will heal soon and we can plan that activity sooner rather than later and we will let you know when and if that will happen. Again, do not hesitate to reach out to us. Hug your kiddos tight for us and tell them we love them.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Newell, Principal, Elgin Lower Elementary