

March 23, 2020

Dear Lower School Families,

Soon we will begin to roll out our online learning program. Most of you collected your children's resource bags last week. For those that did not, there is one last collection time of 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 29. If you are not in Columbus, feel free to send a neighbor or relative to collect it for you. If you are not able to collect it, please let your child's homeroom teachers know so they can plan accordingly.

On Monday, March 30, homeroom teachers will be sending you an email inviting you to get started with online learning. For the first two days, the goal is for children to get online with your support and guidance in order to complete the activities that the teachers recommend. It is important that children become comfortable with this process and, if possible, you are there to support them. If you have issues with logging on on Monday or Tuesday, it is important you email your children's homeroom teachers. We are all here to support families. While there will be a natural tendency to move into academics quickly, it is more important that we prepare so once everyone is ready, we can be more effective in our online learning.

Online learning will look different at each grade level. This is due to the differences in developmental levels and what activities we can reasonably and effectively provide online. We do not have set hours that students must be online in the Lower School. While this is possible for middle and upper school students, lower-schoolers often need more adult support, and we want to make this convenient for you as you also have your own commitments. Your child's homeroom teacher will communicate his/her plan on Monday and please communicate regularly with them whenever you have a question. There will be suggested amounts of time to spend on activities, and this is to help your children. If you find these times to be much less or much greater than teachers suggest, please let them know.

Online learning is new for all of us. There will be bumps along the road. Please know we have been using resources from international schools that started this process months ago, and we benefit from revisions they have already made based on feedback from their parent and student communities. Sadly, we can also not replicate our warm culture virtually. We will do our best by providing times when your children can video chat with teachers, sharing videos for some activities (our lower school assembly, as an example) and creating various other events. In addition, our school counselor Mr. Ditty will be providing activities and exercises that may help your children through this time of primarily learning individually. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated, and I invite you to contact any of us when you have questions or need help.

In the meantime, please feel free to continue using [this link](#) for a variety of resources during the second week of spring break and beyond. We add to it daily and hope you have found it to be useful.

Warm Regards,

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