

Message to Parents/Guardians about the USD 461 Neodesha's Continuous Learning Plan March 27, 2020

What has the staff been doing this week?

- Staff began development of quality learning activities that not only re-emphasize the skills that have been taught previously, but also skills that will prepare students for the upcoming year.
- One of the main goals of our Continuous Learning Plan is to provide meaningful learning activities for students that can be completed independently for the most part and done at a time that is convenient for families.
 - We understand this is going to look different for all of our families so we developed the Continuous Learning Plan with flexibility in mind. As parents, we encourage you to work with your child on the expectations as to when the learning activities will be completed.
 - A clear message that we want to send to all families, regardless of the age of the students, is we don't want anyone to struggle, be frustrated, or overwhelmed. If you're needing guidance from the teacher for a learning activity, just skip that task until help from the teacher can be given. More information about when/how to contact parents is listed below in the following section: **How do I contact the teachers for help?**
- We developed learning activities to provide choices for all students using a variety of formats.
 - There are going to be learning activities that will require technology, but also many that will not require technology. Students will not be penalized if they do not have access to technology.

What are the nuts & bolts of this plan?

- Students will receive an email from the school.
 - Each grade level developed many choices with a variety of formats to allow all learners to experience success.
 - **The classroom teachers will specify their expectations on the plans.**
 - To avoid burnout and/or frustration, we recommend students do not do all of the work in one setting. As a reminder, this is a **weekly** lesson plan, so set a schedule/pace that works for your child and your family.
- Here is the timeline that KSDE suggested for the various grade levels. This suggested time does not have to be in one setting, but can happen throughout the day. Additionally, if you discover your child is struggling to complete the suggested amount of activities per day, communicate with the teacher. The teacher will work with you on a modified plan.
 - Pre-K: 30 minutes
 - K-1: 45 minutes
 - 2-3: 60 minutes
 - 4-5: 90 minutes
 - 6-12: 30 minutes per teacher (maximum of 3 hours)

What will the first week (March 30 to April 3) look like?

- The Continuous Learning Plan will start Monday, March 30, and the first week is about reconnecting with students & families, establishing new routines, and providing ALL of us an opportunity to see what this new format will look like. Truly, it is almost like it is August again with new routines and new structures having to be established.
- We anticipate there will be questions and some glitches! Here is who you can reach out to for any issues that you are having:
 - Learning Activities: Contact your classroom teacher via email
 - Technology: Contact James Canterbury or Adrienne Eastwood at 620-325-3015
 - Social Emotional Wellness: Contact your school counselor or social worker
 - Food Service: Alisha Newland at 620-325-3015
 - Any Other Concerns: Contact your building principal or the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Juanita Erickson at 620-325-2610

How do I contact the teachers for help?

- All of the Continuous Learning Plans will contain contact information for the teachers. Truly, the best way to contact teachers will be by email. Teachers have set up “office hours” designated to communicate with parents and students, and those hours are included in the plans. Of course, you can email anytime, but just know the teacher may not respond immediately. Teachers will respond within 24 hours of an email (M-F).
- Our staff also has become quite skilled in Zoom so if a face-to-face meeting is necessary, this might be an option, too.
- If you ever have difficulties contacting a staff member, you can always contact the school office or the Board of Education Office at 620-325-2610, and we will be happy to assist.
- Please know that we will do EVERYTHING we can to keep continuous communication occurring!
- Families, please be sure that you check SeeSaw and/or Google Classroom and your email often. This will be the primary way we communicate.

As a parent, what can I do to help?

- Develop a routine for your family with a designated time for learning activities. Students are active learners and can be a part of this process. Empower them to take charge of their learning, and it will be more successful!
- We also encourage you to set up a “workspace” for your child for activities requiring concentration and a quiet environment.
- Your child should be able to complete most of the learning activities independently, but there may be times when your child has questions. We also understand that the learning activities may be confusing to parents. Therefore, please don't let any activity stress your child or family. Just skip it, try another one, and reach out to the teacher for clarification.
- If you need help with any of these suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or school counselors. They will gladly help you brainstorm ideas that may work for your family.
- Additionally, here is a great resource to support families with all of the changes that must happen at home: [MY KID'S SCHOOL IS CLOSED, SO NOW WHAT?](#)

What if my child does not have Internet access?

- We developed learning activities to provide choices for the students using a variety of formats. There are going to be activities requiring technology, but also many will not. Therefore, if you do not have Internet access, choose the activities that do not require it. Students will not be penalized if they do not have access to technology. However, this does not excuse the student from mastering the content expectations. **By Monday, March 30th, WiFi HotSpot coverage will be available in the parking lot areas of Heller, NHS, North Lawn, the Board of Education Office, and the Bus Barn. Students and/or parents will need to stay in their vehicles and practice social distancing. No code will be needed to access the HotSpot. The WiFi name is Education Hotspot.**

What are other things I should know?

- We will follow the regular school calendar as far as days "in session" for the remainder of the year. This means there are no school expectations on April 10 (Good Friday) and April 13 Teacher Inservice. (Please note that **Grab & Go Meals will not be served on April 10 and 13.**)
- I've had a few parents ask about yearbooks, spring pictures, lunch money, etc. When things settle down, we will provide information to all of the parents regarding the end-of-year topics.

Final Thoughts....

- It's an unprecedented time and we are being called to do an unprecedented task.
- Thank you to our **custodial staff** who have worked extremely hard to keep our buildings clean and disinfected.
- Thank you to our **kitchen help** who are working each day to get meals prepared for our students.
- Thank you to our **teaching staff** who are working extremely hard to meet the needs of our students!
- **If any school community can make this work, it is ours. Go Bluestreaks!!**
- This is an AMAZING opportunity for our family to grow, support one another, and have compassion for our fellow humans.
- We know this pandemic has caused stress to families and our community. We recognize and appreciate that fact. We will do everything in our power, to make this a positive time for the children and the families.
- This is the time for Grace & Flexibility for ALL!
- **FAMILIES, WE THANK YOU FOR BEING TRUE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION!**

Juanita Erickson

Superintendent USD 461 Neodesha