

A great 3rd, 1st week of school!!! Everything went well overall. I hope that I can clear up a few things in this email and make this the last massive school start-up email and move to our normal newsletter (Wow! I did not expect to hear all of the cheering that loud but I clearly understand it has been many emails).

We have now made it through the 1st week of the dual platform system. We have seen a lot of progress on the teacher, parent and student sides even with the technology issues Thursday and Friday! I have several topics to clarify so that we are all on the same page. Most are very important so I encourage you to read the entire email of information so you and your student are able to have a great school year. The following were developed based off the most common questions or concerns that we have had.

Remote Learners School Day and Teacher Access

Our goal is to help Remote Learners as much as we can but we are an asynchronous model so there is not direct instruction as a standard. If a teacher offers, from time to time, opportunities for synchronous instruction, this is a bonus and not required.

We use videos, activities, assignments, etc. to help the student progress. It is important for the remote learner to have self-motivation, self-discipline, strong study and work habits to be successful.

We highly recommend that a Remote Learner stay on the same time schedule and follow their classes as they would if they were In Person. As they have questions, they would email their teacher during that time. The teacher will respond, as they are able. Communication with their teacher is vital in being successful.

Please know that a teacher's normal workday is from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Most teachers will conduct sessions and answer questions outside of that time on a limited basis. Teachers will offer at least 1 time per week for tutorials for Remote Learners. This will mainly be from 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. on a specific day. However, if other teachers teach the same course, you may be able to join in if your teacher is not available. Please communicate with your teacher on available times if you need assistance from another teacher.

Attendance

We have received many questions about attendance. The following is to help with understanding but please do not let this be a point of concern or frustration. The focus needs to be engaging in class no matter the platform and completing the assigned tasks for each day. If a student is doing that, in the end, they will be fine as it relates to attendance. Each day has a 2-day process. Day 1 is the initial attendance and day 2 is adjustments based on Remote Learners engagement.

Process day 1 of a course

All Remote Learners are initially marked present (follow up will occur the next day looking for engagement.)

All In Person Learners and Remote Learners that are coming to school for a specific class will be marked present if they are there and absent if they are not.

The following day

The teacher will do a quick review of the previous day's engagement for Remote Learners. If Engagement did not occur, teachers will change the student from present to absent.

Absences – We monitor absences for two reasons – Funding (attendance period) and credit for a course.

Attendance for funding is a specific period. If a student is marked absent for this specific class period (2nd) but engages on-line no matter the platform, they will be given a code of absent but funded because they engaged but were marked absent. Therefore, funding for student is maximized.

Attendance for credit for all classes. The expectation is that students are engaged in class throughout the year and should not miss more than 10% of a specific class per semester. However, with the challenges of the different platforms and engagement on-line, all absences are going to stand initially. If a student exceeds 10% absent rate for a class per semester, the assistant principal will review a student's progress in that course. If the student is completing their assignments and being successful in the course, the assistant principal will grant credit and we move on.

Summary – Please do not get worked up over attendance. If each student engages class each day and is being successful, attendance will not interfere with their credit.

Student Performance

We ask all parents to review their students' progress. We have been excited to see improvement being made this week by all learners but have noticed a significant positive difference from our In Person learners. This is a great time to review your students' current performance in each class and make a change if it works in your student's best interest regarding health and education. I encourage parents to double check the grades and your personal situation to see if returning to In Person would be appropriate.

Please make sure that your child has all assignments completed and turned in. I would recommend that you or your child contact individual teachers if their grades are not passing at this time so you can work out a plan for remediation and improvement.

Remember, to change a student's Learning Format, please email your child's counselor. Any change, requires 3 school days to make the adjustment.

Eligibility

Please remember that we are fast approaching the end of the 1st 6-weeks of school. At the end of this week, we will have a UIL Eligibility check. Students that are not passing a course will be ineligible for a specified 3 weeks. End of the 6-weeks is September 18 with an eligibility change on September 25.

Visitors, items drop-off or delivery

Thank you for your cooperation to our process at this time. We have seen a huge reduction of visitors. In addition, item drop-off or delivery attempts have been almost zero. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We will be reviewing the drop-off or delivery process after this week to see if we can or need to do anything different. We are protecting the health of our staff and In Person Learners and hope that this will allow us to continue working with kids. As the situation moves forward, we will be looking at all policies to help.

Please remember, before you get to the school, use the link/QR code on our website for Visitor check-in. If you need your student for an appointment, please contact our attendance office and we will conduct a curbside pick-up process.

Assessments

Please know that we will begin the process of using Proctorio over the next few weeks. In addition, tests for all students will have time limitations. The strategies that we will have in place will reduce the impact of individuals that try to compromise the integrity of the exam.

Remember, if parents/students do not want to use Proctorio, if it is being used by the teacher, they will be required to come to school for the exam.

Access for Remote Learners During the day

Please remember that all Remote Learners that are coming to the school for a class or classes will need to arrange the days with their teacher for that course. In addition, all Remote Learners will enter the front of the building and sign-in using their ID. If they do not have an ID, they need to arrive at least 15 minutes early so we can get them the appropriate ID to scan in and out. All remote learners will sign out in the same location.

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