

Dear Parents,

We made it through another week!

Of course, you know how I am always amazed by my wonderful class! This week I am reflecting on how they are juggling all the crazy schedules they need to remember and follow each day. Especially with the changes that keep happening. I myself have to write everything down carefully for each day or I will forget! But they are handling it like professionals! I can count on one hand the times that someone didn't show up for a lesson at the correct time. Is that amazing or what?! I mean these are kids are 9 years old! I give huge kudos for how well they are going in and out of daily class meetings!

So on to stuff to know.

### **EPIC CLASS CODE**

Some of your kids used Epic, an online resource for books, last year. FYI, I wanted to let you know that I now have a class code so your kids can access this again. The code is vsv3714. Happy reading!

### **LINCOLN LIBRARY IS HAPPENING**

Our librarian, Mrs. Routh, has been working hard to get a system all set up for Lincoln students to start checking out books from our library. So, we are launching!

The students need to go online to the Alexandria Researcher.

I access this with this link: <https://cusd-lincoln.goalexandria.com/researcher>

Mrs. Routh came to our virtual class last Thursday to explain to the students how to use this website to find books and then put them on hold.

The idea is to use Wednesdays to pick up books and return books. She sent home information to all families that is more detailed. FYI, for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the current schedule dates are September 23, October 7, October 21, November 4, December 2, and December 16.

### **ON-LINE ETIQUETTE**

Along with online learning, comes the importance of online etiquette. Please take some time to go over to the behavior expectations.

1. Sharing fun songs etc. while it is break time (15 minutes before school, during morning break time, 15 minutes before lunch is over) is totally fine. However, anything shared must be appropriate. So, no sharing anything that has bad words, inappropriate topics etc.
2. It is important to pay attention to what other students are saying. For example, if they ask you to stop something, please stop.
3. Conversation and chat comments must be kind and appropriate. We discussed how "joking" doesn't really work with chatting. Something that is clearly meant as a joke when talking, doesn't always come across that way in text.
4. I give the students about 15 minutes to socialize before classes begin. I am present to monitor but I do not usually participate. So, the signal to stop is when I speak up and

usually say, “Hi Ellerbees!” The students should also be paying attention to the time. And when it’s time to stop, they need to do this without repeated reminders.

### **NEED TECH HELP?**

As we are dealing with lots of new technology things can definitely go wrong! I just wanted to pass along some resources to you.

One is Mrs. Satya’s email (known as Ms. Susan to the kids): [tech\\_lincoln@cusdk8.org](mailto:tech_lincoln@cusdk8.org),

Another great resource is: <https://sites.google.com/cusdk8.org/cusd-tech-help>

I have heard a lot of positive feedback about how helpful this is. They can even walk you through issues, share their screen, problem solve etc.

### **iREADY MATH ON WEDNESDAYS**

As you know, the students are supposed to go to iReady via Clever.com each Wednesday. They are required to log in and do at least 30 minutes. I totally understand that there was an overload of things to remember as we started remote learning. It was overwhelming for parents, students, and teachers alike!

Now that we are fully launched and some of that “newness” is gone, I want to let everyone know that the Wednesday iReady assignment is not optional. You can easily check to see what days they logged in, what assignments they worked on, and how many minutes they worked. Just supervise your child as s/he logs on and look at what they did. All the information is there. Starting this Wednesday, I will be checking and getting back to you if your child did not do their iReady assignment.

### **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE GOOGLE DOCS**

Not all assignments need to be completed as a Google Doc. Math is a good example. However, if something needs to be written such as our beach narrative for writing and response to literature for reading, the work **MUST** be done on a Google Doc.

The reason for this is practical. When work is done on the Google Doc, and it needs to be edited, it is sooooo much easier to do that on the document instead of rewriting it completely by hand. In the last few weeks, I have had to ask students to rewrite work that was done by hand and it takes so much more time and/or effort! In addition, when it is done via Google Docs, I can actually make specific comments as I read through the writing. That way I can give useful feedback. When it is handwritten and emailed to me, I scroll back and forth to choose important comments, but I am not able to highlight the areas to pinpoint where the fix needs to happen. That can lead to confusion, of course.

### **NAMING GOOGLE DOCS AND EMAILS**

Okay, don’t laugh! This is a common thread through all my emails. So sorry to keep harping on this!

However, this continues to be a problem. I posted an announcement on our website reiterating how important this is. I also am offering an incentive. We are going to earn class point based on how successful we are naming things correctly.

I highly recommend posting a reminder right where your child does school. On the website announcement I put some YES and NO examples. You could copy those and put them on a note. I also recommend writing it large enough to notice and using color/highlighters to make it stand out.

This may sound trite, but it really is critical. I literally can't find assignments when they are named incorrectly and/or vaguely. I am dealing with 100s of emails a day. I never imagined that would be such a big part of online learning! Sometimes I am looking for a Google Doc and I put a myriad of words in the search on my Google Drive. Without the student name in the save box it is almost impossible for searching to be successful. I know it seems weird to put your own name in the save box. LOL! But literally, if they do that and I enter their name in search, all their documents will pull up.

Whew! I am done with another way too long email! Thank you for having the patience to read it all!

I'm looking forward to tomorrow so I can see all the beautiful faces of the Ellerbees!

Stay safe,

Ruth