

Dear Parents,

Hope the Ellerbees had a good three day weekend!

So, I don't think many of you are aware of this, but I tend to wear T shirts to school that say funny things...about school, teaching, math, language etc. In fact, sometimes I think that the students learn things better when they see it on my shirts! LOL! I have had high school students come back and tell me they will never forget "Their, There, and They're...Not the Same!" because it was on one of my shirts. True story. So, last week we actually had a funny T shirt moment! I had told the Ellerbees that they only needed to do the odd problems on the math worksheet. And they were puzzled by the term "odd problems." Did I mean do the problems that seemed weird? I suddenly realized I was wearing the perfect T shirt for this moment. My shirt literally said, "You know what I find odd? Numbers that aren't divisible by 2." So I had to show them, and we had a great discussion about the multiple meanings that words often have. And we had a great laugh too!

On to Stuff to Know...

MATH CHAPTER 6 TEST

Yup, it's time for another math test! Per usual, they will take Part One on a Google Quiz that will be posted on Google Classroom. The test will have a Part Two section with the problems they need to do on paper. They will email me the paper part when finished. When I receive both parts, they can be dismissed for lunch. Also, as we typically do, the test will start at 10:00 on Friday. That gives everyone 2 hours to complete the test.

REPORT CARDS

As you know, the 2nd trimester has concluded. The teachers have a window of time to complete the report cards. As a heads up, I will be taking March 23 to work on report cards. That means the students will be given asynchronous work to do that day. (More information to follow about what students will do on March 23.) The report cards will be available to parents on **March 31. (This is a change from an earlier date given of March 26.)**

HYBRID SCHOOL STARTING APRIL 5

This plan seems to be fluid and changes are happening frequently. So I can give you what I know today. But please be alert to possible changes.

The students who chose to return to Lincoln have been assigned to Cohort A or Cohort B. **I have sent parents a separate email to let you know which cohort your child was assigned.**

FYI, not all teachers are doing the lessons and teaching the same way. We have been given flexibility to do what works best for our class. I am planning on having DL (distance learning) students still log on to our meet at 8:30. Meanwhile IP (in person) students will arrive at school on their designated days at a little **before** 8:30. That is so they can get to the classroom, wash their hands, and get set up with their devices. All students will have the Meet up on a device so we can still interact with each other. Then I will teach to both groups simultaneously. Assignments will still be done just as we are doing now, and worksheets and information will be via our class website and Google Classroom. This will be true for DL and IP kids.

Currently, we are having a **transition week on April 5 – 9**. The day will start at 8:30 for everyone. The IP kids will show up by 8:30 as stated above. Then we will have a hybrid model class for 2 hours. At 10:30 the IP kids will go home during a short break time. Then all students will be online together for the rest of the day. When we return from our Spring Break on April 19, IP students will arrive at 8:30 but will have recess break and a lunch break at school. They will be dismissed to go home at 1:50. From 2:00 to 3:00 all students will be able to check in with me, ask questions about assignments etc. via our Ellerbee link.

More information about what IP students need to bring to school etc. will be sent home separately.

DEVICES SURVEY

A survey is being sent home soon. It will ask what device the IP students are bringing to school. It will also give parents the opportunity to request a school device. All IP students will be required to have a device and headsets/ear buds at school. Stay tuned...

CAASPP TESTING WEEK OF APRIL 5

As of now, the state CAASPP testing is still going to happen. Since this testing was canceled last spring, this will be the first experience the Ellerbees will have doing this. It is an online platform and everyone will be doing this at home after 10:30 the week of April 5. The exact schedule hasn't been given to the teachers yet.

The critical thing to know right now is that the testing can only be done on a secure browser. The district sent home this information to all families already. There are instructions on how to get the secure browser on a home device. We will also need to know what device your child is going to be using.

If you have problems with getting a device prepared, please email Mrs. Satya for help. Her email is: satya_susan@cusdk8.org. Also, if you need a school device you should email her and request one. The school devices already have been set up to go to the secure browser. The sooner you work on this and/or contact Mrs. Satya, the better.

NAMING EMAILS CORRECTLY STILL AN ISSUE

I am mostly referring to the emails that are students asking me questions, not necessarily turning in work. This last week I got 14 emails that just put the name of the assignment in the subject. When I opened it, students were not actually turning in the work. Rather, they had questions about it. Sometimes they were asking to use a coupon for it etc. When students have questions about the work, I try to answer those emails right away. Sometimes it is time sensitive. Please remind your kids to write something like "math test question" or "writing group question" or "Keychart 5 coupon" in the subject line. Thanks!

So, are you feeling overwhelmed? I definitely am overwhelmed!!! So many unknowns! I am just hanging on to how wonderful you are, and how flexible you are. We are going to somehow get through this together, right?

Stay safe,
Ruth