

Dear Parents,

Another week closer to vacation! I think we are all going to need it!

I must admit that I have been extremely overwhelmed this last month as I have been working on report cards, getting ready for hybrid school starting soon, and trying to figure out all the logistics of the CAASPP test in a long distance format. It's been tough. But in the middle of it all, I have been trying to count my blessings. I was able to get both doses of the vaccine. My family is healthy. Your kids brighten up my days. And, right now, I am putting YOU high up on the blessings list! You are probably aware that there is a lot of unrest across the country and it has spilled out to frustration with schools and with teachers. Not to get into all the rhetoric teachers are hearing these days, I just have doubly realized how much you mean to me. I get so much support from you. I get kind emails and sometimes even pictures from you! It warms my heart more than I can say. Your words and smiles lift me up in a way that is hard to explain. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

On to stuff to know...

CAASPP TEST

Thursday morning Mrs. Satya will be meeting with our class at 11:00. She will be walking the kids through the process of getting logged on to the CAASPP test, the secure browser issue, the importance of writing down the test Session ID code, and more. This will be during an asynchronous day so you might want to set an alarm so your child remembers to attend.

In order **for students to fully participate they must have gotten a secure browser installed** on their laptop or iPad. If you have not done this, we are now on emergency mode. You have also been given the **option of picking up a school device** that has the secure browser already on it. You need to contact Mrs. Satya right away at: satya_susan@cusdk8.org to get a device by Wednesday.

Also, **in order to participate in the training, your child must know their SSID number.** I included a link in last week's email giving instructions on how to get this number. I have posted this link on our website on a new page called CAASPP Testing. When you get this 9 digit number, please write it down and put it where it can be easily viewed each day. If you cannot find the number, you may also contact Mrs. Satya at the email above. Also, you can text me at 650-279-3110 for help.

Another important issue each test day is that once I start a test, I am given a unique Session ID code. I need to give this code to the students right after lunch on April 5, 6, 8, and 9. They will log into the secure browser and type in their first name (as it shows on CUSD legal documents), their SSID number, and their Session ID. **Without these they will not be able to log in to the test.** The hard part of the Session ID is that it is new every day and I cannot get it in advance. I highly recommend that someone pops in with your child on the meet at 12:45 so you can make sure to write it down accurately. It is a combination of letters, numbers, and hyphens. Once I

give the Session ID, we will all log off of the meet. So it will be difficult/impossible to communicate with me if there is a problem with the Session ID. The only possible way to get it once we log off the meet is probably to text me at the number I gave above.

Also, FYI, before students can log into the secure browser, they have to log out of everything else, including the meet and email. Which again, makes communication problematic. Once students successfully log in to the test, they will be asked to activate the mike and camera. We will then be able to communicate with live video during the test. They will be able to raise their digital hand to ask for help.

Please make sure to watch the video I sent to you yesterday with your child. I also posted it on the CAASPP Testing page on our website. This will help your child (and you) to become more familiar with what to expect, how to sign in etc.

Are you overwhelmed yet? I definitely am! We will make it through this!

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

We are having a "not normal" week. Monday and Tuesday the students will log in to the class meet and have normal days. On Wednesday they will have the typical asynchronous school day after our morning meet. BUT, this week the students will have basically a "Wednesday schedule" for Thursday and for Friday. There will be a morning meet but no other class sessions.

All assignments they should do are listed like normal on our website. Basically, Wednesday is normal. I have assigned a review math page for Thursday and Friday. Also they have a social studies project to work on Thursday and Friday. This project is explained on the new page Tribe Research on the website. The students will still have PE on Monday at 9:45 and Friday at 9:00. They will have Music at 10:00 on Thursday like normal. Like I mentioned above, they will have an 11:00 CAASPP training session on Thursday.

HYBRID SCHEDULE WILL BEGIN SOON

We will have a transition week the week of April 5. This is also the week we do CAASPP testing. That will be followed by spring break. Then, on April 19 we will begin our new normal schedule. I will be sending another email this week providing detailed information for both the transition week and the regular hybrid schedule. Stay tuned...

MATERIALS PICK UP

We are scheduled for our next materials pick up from 11:00 to 12:00 on Wednesday, March 31.

Please return the bag with all the electricity stuff when you come to school.

I know you know the drill very well by now. I will be in front of the school with the bags to give out. Please have your child's name written on a paper in the window.

I am sending home more math books (fractions and geometry). Also I am sending home a bag of rocks for our geology unit. It is VERY important not to open this bag. All the rocks are numbered and it is important that nothing gets lost. I will let the students know when to open it. Please make sure it doesn't get lost meanwhile. Also included just for fun will be "rocks" that

are actually chocolate! (Thank you to Ellee's mom!). Also included will be a protractor. This is very important for when we start geometry. Protractors can be designed in many ways and it is important that we all have the same type of protractor so my directions will make sense. Also included will be a Ziplock bag full of misc. stuff. These materials need to be saved to use later as part of a STEAM challenge. (More info on that will be coming.) I will also send home a folder with stuff for our Gold Rush unit we will be starting. Finally, I always send home a few treats just for fun. Included in that bag will be a gift from Leo. He is giving everyone a replica of an old time coin that was common during the days of pirates. Finally, for students who have earned an individual reward that needs to be delivered, that will be in the bag too. Hooray! Also, like usual, if you cannot come at the assigned pick up time, let me know and we can come up with an alternate plan.

NAMING DOCUMENTS (AGAIN)

Sorry for needing to mention this again. Last week the students needed to start their own Google Doc and share it with me. They were allowed to work with partners. It was actually almost hilarious how these were named! The sad reality was it took me forever to figure out who sent them and if it was done with other people, who were they? I actually had to email a lot of students as I tried to figure everything out. Gasp! So, please remind your kids to be super careful about how to name emails and Google Docs. I am very careful to write what to name things. It is on the Weekly Assignments page, the Assignment Checklist page, on individual subject pages, and we also write it on the agenda every Monday. I know it sounds trivial but it can result in adding hours of work to my week. Also if I can't search for a document because of incorrect names, the assignment might need to be redone. Which is definitely a terrible thought!!!

REPORT CARDS

As you most likely know, report cards can be accessed on ParentVue on Wednesday, March 31. I am proud of how hard all the Ellerbees have been working!

This was a LOT to read through! So sorry! And even more about hybrid schedules will be coming soon. You deserve an award for patience and kindness!

Stay safe,

Ruth