Wissahickon
CHARTER SCHOOL

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for your responsiveness with our recent technology survey. This is helping us a lot as we make further plans. I'm using today's update to answer some of the questions that showed up repeatedly in the survey and to share some more resources.

The first thing I want to make clear is that Wissahickon is following state and local decisions around closures. We know those decisions are being made with public safety in mind. At this time, we have been told that the earliest schools will reopen is April 6th, but we are making plans for remote learning as if we will be closed for much longer.

Information about instruction:

- For the week of March 30th-April 3rd, students should complete the second week of their assigned packets that were sent home. If you have any questions or concerns about the packets, please reach out to your child's teacher or learning specialist.
- We hope to make a transition to online learning during the week of April 6th (assuming we are not back in school).
- Our priorities for online learning will be to 1) keep it simple & user-friendly for students & you while providing meaningful learning experiences, 2) have fun & stay engaged, 3) allow students to stay connected with staff & each other, and 4) in April, review learning that's already happened this year to make sure kids have a strong foundation for May onward.
- We are currently using survey data and information gathered in report card conferences to learn about the technology needs in our community. Our first priority is getting families connected who currently have no access to the internet or a device. We will start by distributing devices we already have in our schools. We're also making plans to purchase devices as well. We encourage everyone without internet service to look into getting free internet through Internet Essentials: https://apply.internetessentials.com/.
- We will share a distribution plan for devices when we have one. At this time, we do not plan to charge a deposit for devices.
- If you do not have access to technology and we have not been able to provide it by April 6th, you should use the packets of work that have been made available by the Philadelphia School District. You can pick these up at Meal Distribution Sites or find

them here [HERE](#). These are only to be used in the interim period between finishing our packets and securing the technology needed to access our online program.

- As we're planning virtual learning, we are making sure it's doable for working families and for multiple children in a household. Most students will have about 3 hours of work/day with about 1.5 hours of it on screen.
- Student work will not be graded at this time. This may change moving forward but for now we are most concerned with having students engaged in the work.
- Our model of remote learning will include an opportunity each day for students to join their classmates for a class meeting, however most learning will be asynchronous (not happening all at the same time). With asynchronous learning, families can schedule learning in ways that work for themselves, including situations where multiple students are sharing a device.
- Follow us on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/wisscharter or on Instagram at @wisscharter to learn our latest updates or to see pictures of what our students are up to during the closure.
- For families who have expressed concern about about paying utilities, see this link: https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/the-citys-response/services-and-support/

Thank you for your patience and trust in this tough time. While all of our administrators are working from home, know that our doors are still open to hear your questions or concerns. We're all in this together and we're here to help and listen.

Take care,

Kristi

Kristi Littell, CEO