Hello Families!

Thank you so much for your continued patience and support as we are navigating this new educational experience. I have missed spending time with the class. I miss the stories they tell, their laughter, and just being around them. It is a hard time for all of us.

The teachers have been meeting and collaborating the past two days (at a safe distance) on the platforms and apps that we will be using to deliver instruction to your child. It has been a huge learning curve for many of us.

In our staff meeting this morning, we talked about having grace. Because this is such new territory for many of us, we need to have grace for one another and for ourselves. Together we will be finding out what works well, what doesn’t, and what needs to be changed.

As we move forward, these are things that I am working on:

1. Lesson Plans – Each week, you will receive an email with the lesson plans for the week attached. This will include the assignments and activities that are planned for each day. My goal is to have the next week’s plans to you by Friday or Saturday. As you look at the plans, anything with a Seesaw  icon, means that you will need to log into Seesaw to watch an instructional video or complete an activity. The lesson plans for this week are attached to this email and will be posted on the class website weekly. Videos or activities will be posted on Seesaw each morning.
2. Turning in Work – Seesaw activities can be submitted by completing the activity and tapping the green checkmark. For worksheets, your child can log into Seesaw, tap on the green plus icon and then take a picture of the worksheet. The worksheet will be submitted to me and be recorded. I am asking that all work be completed and submitted by the following Monday morning. We do realize that many of you are working from home and having to juggle work and school schedules, and you will need to determine what works best for your family’s schedule.
3. Raz Kids – I didn’t want to send this information out this week because I don’t want to overload you. Raz Kids is a website that provides leveled reading books for your child to read. I have set up an account for each child in the class and will forward that information to you next week. This is a great way for your child to keep up with their reading practice.
4. Specialists – Mr. Goodspeed, Mrs. Manuta, and Mr. Franklin will also have assignments for the classes. Their assignments will be updated on their webpage on Hope’s website. I will also list those on the weekly lesson plans beginning next week.
5. Conferencing with Students – I am setting up a Zoom account. Zoom is a video conferencing tool that you can access either from a computer or a tablet. You are not required to create an account to join a meeting. As we go through the next couple of days, I will finalize how I will set up group and individual meetings with students. This will give us a way to connect, have questions answered, for me to listen to your child read, etc. Beginning next week, I will have “office hours” set up and information on how your child can connect with me directly. **In the meantime, I am planning two informal meetings on Friday. One at 10:00 am and another at 1:00 pm for about 20-30 minutes each.** I will send out information to join the meetings no later than Thursday afternoon. These meetings are for students to gather together with me. The kids will have a chance to share what they have been doing (similar to what we do in class), and for me to just talk with them. I encourage you to help your child join one of these meetings. Once your child joins, you do not need to stay with your child. Joining both meetings is not necessary unless your child wants to join both.
6. Email Communication – You are always welcome to send communication through email. In addition to sending out an email with lessons plans each week, I will continue to send out a weekly newsletter on Tuesdays.

I tried to keep the plans light for this week since this is so new to us. In the packets that went home last week, you have all of the worksheets and student books for this week and next week. Before we break for Spring Break, I will let you know how to get the remainder for the worksheets, etc. for the next few weeks. I am trying to minimize or eliminate the need for you to come into school.

Thank you, again, for your support and patience. Be kind to yourselves during this time. Not everything will go perfectly, and we will be making changes and modifications as we continue to learn how best to maintain an educational environment.

I’m off to begin working on tomorrow’s instructional videos. Feel free to send me an email on how things go tomorrow. I’m looking forward to seeing as many of the students as I can on Friday on the Zoom video conference!

In Christ,

Jennifer Neafcy