



A NOTE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE

Dear Science Park Parents,

We appreciate the feedback you provided on our online learning program in the recent survey, and have taken the time to do some analysis of the results. All of us are relatively new at this, so your honest feedback is particularly instructive for us at this point in time.

Some positive results from the survey are:

- 65% of parents reported that students are being given the right amount of work to do, with 20% of parents reporting workloads are too heavy, and 15% saying they are too light.
- 74% of parents agreed that teacher lessons are clear.
- 87% of parents agreed that teacher expectations have been clear.
- 83% of parents agreed that their child receives feedback from teachers.
- 69% of parents agreed that school communication about online learning has been effective.

Areas for attention based on the survey results are:

- Only 57% of parents agreed that students are being provided a variety of work, both on and off screen. In addition, numerous parent comments indicated concerns about “screen time” and how much time their child was spending in front of a device.
- Frequent parent comments requesting more video “lessons” as opposed to “homework”. Essentially, parents would like to see more direct instruction via digital means.
- Only 25% of parents agreed that their child enjoys online learning.
- In the section of the survey calling for comments, a number of parents expressed some confusion regarding where teachers post assignments on Teams.

Plan of action:

- **Screen Time** – Science Park teachers have been asked to incorporate more activities that kids can do off screen, to the degree that it makes sense in their subject area. Teachers will try to be explicit about which parts of your assignment should be done off screen, and encourage students to take breaks from their devices.

- **Lessons vs. Assignments** – Science Park teachers will be made aware of the concern about the ratio of video lessons to homework, and will be asked to either provide recorded explanations, demos’ etc., in which direct instruction and examples are given. Many teachers are already doing recorded lessons (videos, PPT’s, demos, etc.) and they will continue to do so. Those that have not done many are being asked to include more. As a general rule, 10 minutes is kind of a guide to define the outer limits of an “instructional video”. Teachers will not record 80 minutes of direct instruction as it is well beyond the attention span of teens.
- **Posting Assignments on Teams** – Some teachers post instructions and assignments in the chat tab, others in the assignments tab. As this has caused some confusion among parents, all teachers will post assignments and related descriptions in the assignments tab in Teams.
- **Enjoyment of Online Learning** – This is a tough one to remedy since so much of a student’s enjoyment of learning comes from being present in a school, surrounded by caring adults, peers, activities, sports, clubs, events and all the other things that make kids love school. Teachers will continue to do their best to make online learning engaging, but nothing they can do can compensate for the absence of all the other things kids love about school. This is why so few students around the world choose to do all of their learning online!

Your insights have been invaluable in determining the modifications we need to make in order to keep improving our program. This is, has been and will continue to be “work in progress” as our whole community rises to meet this challenge. Thanks for your continued support!

Best regards,

Middle School Office



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