



A NOTE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE

Dear Middle School Parents,

It has been another busy week of online learning, and things continue to go smoothly in spite of the unique circumstances in which we find ourselves. The students are doing an excellent job of working relatively independently and are getting the vast majority of their work submitted on time. It also appears that life in Guangzhou is slowly returning to its usual rhythm, and I hope that our kids that are still in the city are getting out more, and getting some sunshine, physical activity and social interaction offline. Each day, we get a little closer to normal! Ok, a couple things this week:

Child Protection – This online learning world has required us to take a couple new precautions in order to maintain good child protection practice. So school-wide, we are asking our teachers to do 2 things:

1. If they are meeting online with a student one-on-one via Teams or Zoom (or any other means) they will record the conversation and let the student know it is being recorded. If they are meeting with more than one student, the conversation does not need to be recorded.
2. Teachers will no longer allow students to remain in an online meeting without the teacher present. In other words, they will not relinquish the host role. Once the teacher has concluded his/her business with the group with which they are meeting, they will end the meeting. The online classroom is much like a physical classroom in that you the teacher bears primary responsibility for what happens there. Therefore, just like a physical classroom, kids cannot be “unsupervised”.

Grading Students – Because the school closure has gone on significantly longer than we originally anticipated, and we will be in this environment for a few more weeks, we are now encouraging teachers to have more graded assignments and to enter them in the online gradebook, Veracross. Just as before the closure, you have access to these grades and can view them at any time. At the outset of online learning, we encouraged teacher to provide feedback rather than “grades” to students but now feel the need to ensure we have grades in our gradebooks so that we may determine final grades at the end of the semester.

All right, that’s it for this week. Until next Friday!!

Regards,

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