



Region 14 Schools

Serving the Towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury

MITCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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March 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope this communication finds you all safe and well. The teachers, staff and administrators from Region 14 truly miss your children.

We, as educators, know our pathway right now will be new to us and also new to you and your child. There are many changes happening and here is what we envision for the short term to continue your child's learning:

1. Monday, March 23rd, we will have learning plans launched. These plans will look different depending upon your student's grade level. All teachers at each grade level in the region are working together, virtually, to make this happen.
2. The first week of learning will be a time for our kids to acclimate to an educational routine. Our vision is to grow our ideas of delivering virtual learning in a way that our children can latch onto.
3. All teachers recognize the stress that families are feeling, and the complexity of being able to deliver distance learning. Elementary education is a model and exploratory process of hands-on learning, and we are moving out of an instructional delivery style to visual, which could be a challenge for students who are not strong with this mode of learning.
4. We are keenly aware of the limitations of virtual learning, and will be adjusting as best we can during this process. Feedback from families will be important for me and our staff, so please feel free to ask questions, and also to make constructive suggestions as we navigate these coming days and weeks.
5. As you view the first week of activities, bear in mind it is the beginning and we will be adjusting the expectations as we move along. We are working to input student information for several learning websites. If there are glitches, which there will be, please be patient as we work to rectify the situation, not just for your child but for all students in the region.

6. If your student is not able to participate in the daily lesson for any reason then they will be considered absent for the day. Attendance reporting will remain the same as it has been in the past. Please call the attendance line at your student's school to report the absence and it will be updated in Power School.

7. While you will be busy with your job, you will be modeling and demonstrating responsibility to your child, and we thank you. During time at home, your child might ask you for help, or you might notice they are stuck. Rather than fixing a mistake for them, first try asking "What do you know that can help you?" Let them think about it.

8. While our own adult thinking styles have developed over the years, our young students are actively germinating theirs. Therefore, some struggle is productive, leading to new understanding, new use of learning strategies, and a true sense of accomplishment.

Please know that we appreciate all the work you are doing, and most importantly, what your children are doing.

Sincerely,

Andrew Komar

Andrew Komar

Principal
Mitchell Elementary School

Mark Harutunian

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Principal
Bethlehem Elementary School