

Beecher Road School

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April 6, 2020

Dear Beecher Road School Parents and Families,

We want to thank you for your partnership during the first week of our Beecher Road Distance Learning Plan. We know that this has been a significant period of adjustment and we thank you for your patience and support! Students have been terrific during this first week of the “new normal”. Parents have also been amazing in juggling multiple roles including that of parent and homeschool teacher; all while working from home. Let us say with sincerity that we could not do this work without you. Your support of your children has been phenomenal. Finally, we are very proud of our teachers and staff for the manner in which they have embraced distance learning. Through this, we have witnessed a changeover to a whole new way of teaching and learning in a short amount of time!

Reflecting on the first week of distance learning, we know that there are those who feel there is too much work and those who want more. There are those who want more direct interaction with staff and at the same time there are those who are not available. There are those who say this is fun and those who find it challenging and overwhelming. And there are those who are saying we are getting it “just right”. All of this is accurate and expected because we know that our students, teachers, and families are all different. The Covid-19 pandemic is unprecedented and we know that learning will not look or feel the same since we are not all together at Beecher Road School.

One of our goals over the next few weeks is to increase the use of recorded video/audio lessons in order to enhance distance learning. While some teachers may choose to engage in live morning meetings or check ins, we are keeping in mind that:

- Live video lessons raise concerns around student privacy and confidentiality.
- Recorded lessons are available at a time that is convenient to families (unlike live lessons that cannot be recorded and may therefore cause some students to miss out on valuable instruction).
- Teachers are working in teams, so you may see someone other than your child’s teacher teaching a subject.

Another goal is to reach out personally to both students and parents. This will take place in the form of parent-teacher “check in” conferences this week. This will be an ongoing process.

During this incredibly difficult time, we ask families to keep in mind that:

- Health and well-being continue to be the #1 priority.
- Focus on enjoyment and fun and less on getting distance learning perfect.
- Be ready for frustrations and focus on patience and positive relationships.
- Please reach out to us if you need support. Our School Psychologists and Social Worker are ready to assist any families in need.

A few important reminders:

- Please remember that food service continues during April break at Amity High School and Amity Middle School both the Bethany and Orange campuses from 10:00-12:00 Monday through Friday.
- If your child is absent, please continue to call the absentee line at 203-389-2195.
- April vacation will begin on April 10, 2020 and distance learning will resume on April 20, 2020.

Continue to look for ongoing communication during this ever-changing situation!

Sincerely,

Robert Gilbert

Analisa Sherman

Doreen Merrill

Cheryl Mammen

Our Mission

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of life-long learning, embraces diversity, and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.