

FPS ELEMENTARY UPDATE

Adjusting to Meet the Needs of our Community



While our structure of educating our children through distance learning has evolved and therefore has altered, our commitment to adhering to what is most important has not. You have likely seen the “Just for Fun Fridays” document that was sent via an Infinite Campus last week as well as the recent changes to the [Flexible Learning Plan](#). As we grow in our understanding on how best to teach in a Distance Learning model, we are in agreement with what has been reported from experts from different parts of the educational community; the priorities in distance learning should be *safety, equity and connection*.

Safety

This is not just the obvious of online safety, but social & emotional safety in learning as well. No child should feel abandoned or alone in their learning; no child should ever cry or stress from the pressure of any model for education.



Equity

This is not just in terms of access to devices, but access to adult support as well. It isn't practical or fair to ask parents to replace a certified professional teacher. Nor is it fair to ask parents working from home to have to unduly sacrifice work obligations to instruct their child.

Connection

Perhaps the most important; it isn't fair to demand an intense amount of new learning happen in a model that is void of the personal connections, collaboration, and cooperative learning that our students are so used to having with their classmates and teachers.



Scheduling learning now happens in the kitchen

Some changes have been made to find creative ways to accommodate for a model of distance learning that is able to continue focusing on our FPS curriculum, but also accomplish such goals as engaging students in projects they are passionate about, and celebrating what they have learned each week. The intention is to prioritize outcomes for students during each subject area so they are focused on key learning targets. We will validate our commitment to the curriculum by focusing on the most important pieces of each unit.

“priorities in distance learning should be safety, equity and connection”

Not to be ignored in all of this is the social-emotional learning (SEL) that plays an even larger role considering the current state of things. That is why our Fridays after Spring Break will be days primarily for celebration, weekly work completion, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning. Parents can expect Fridays to include lessons posted as usual, but these lessons will be rooted in celebration of learning and social-emotional well-being.

Please stay safe, and take care of one another.