



A NOTE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICE

Hello again MS parents. I hope that you got the same break from online learning as our teachers and students, because I know you needed it too!. This has been a team effort from the beginning, and the teachers and I are well aware of the extra burden it has placed on our parents. I met with the Middle School Grade-level Team Leaders yesterday and they report that the kids seem “re-energized”. I hope you do as well. News this week.....

Opening School – Yes, this has indeed been announced by the Guangzhou Education Bureau! More to come from Kevin Baker regarding the specifics, so stay tuned to your email for official updates.

Progress Reports – We will be making these available on Veracross on Tuesday at 11:00 am and you will receive an email at that time notifying you that they are ready for view. Please note that this progress report is significantly simpler than the one we normally issue at this time of year. Individual reporting strands do not appear on the progress report, and we have created two new ATL’s that are more aligned to the online learning environment. The progress report is a general reflection of your child’s effort and work quality during the online learning period. You are still able to see your child’s grades on assignments by logging into Veracross as you have in the past. We will, however, be assigning regular grades at the end of the semester. It is also important to note that Progress Reports do not become part of your child’s official record. Only the Semester Report Cards become part of a student’s permanent file. Final note: Students who enrolled in other schools during our school closure, and have not indicated that they are returning to our online program will not receive a progress report.

Students Trying to Get Caught Up - We’ve had a few kids students fall behind in their work over the past few weeks and they are determined to make up all they have missed. My message to them has been to give all the new assignments the top priority and make up the old ones a couple at a time as they go. I just want you to know what I’m recommending for kids who are behind so that you might echo the same approach. Our teachers are being flexible in accepting late work as quite a few kids, particularly those in China, have experienced some major tech issues over the past couple months.

The Lantern! – Amid all the chaos, some of our 6th graders have managed to create a school newspaper, *the Lantern*. Give it a read when you have time. **Norm Schwagler** was kind enough to

sponsor them on this project and **Mark Lau** helped them get it into an online format. Kudos to Sara Io (editor), Jakob Timmerman, Brian Sun, Howie Chan and Autumn Callister (columnists)!

<https://lantern.aisgz.org/>

That's all for now. Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

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