April 10, 2020

2019-2020 EMES Family Newsletter

Alicia Lyford, Principal

EMES Mission Statement

"The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring citizens and life-long learners through a challenging and relevant curriculum."

Dear EMES Families -

I hope you're all doing well and are becoming more acclimated to our new "normal" as the days go on. I can speak honestly for every staff member at EMES—WE MISS YOUR CHILDREN!

Thank you for your patience this past week as we've worked to create a learning plan that will take us through the remainder of the school year. I am so proud of the work everyone at EMES accomplished this week in order to make that happen. While it may have been a "lighter" instructional week, our teachers worked harder than ever. They identified the student learning outcomes and performance indicators they feel we can reasonably approach through distance learning in the coming months. They also developed new schedules for students and began to prepare the necessary materials for this period of learning. If you have not yet heard from your child's teacher about these plans, you will very soon!

I want to highlight a few important pieces here (the details will come from your child's teachers!). **First,** each classroom will have Class Meeting twice a week at a regularly scheduled time. Participation during these times is important and we've worked hard to ensure siblings do not have Morning Meetings scheduled at the same time. **Second,** each teacher will be teaching 3 recorded literacy based lessons and 2 recorded math lessons each week. They will share with you how to access these recorded lessons. We are hoping recorded lessons will give families flexibility on viewing times. Art, Music, and PE will also share weekly les-sons/ activities, and Arlyn will continue to provide tech support and Lunch Bunch read aloud in Grades 3—6. **Third,** every teacher and professional staff member in our building will hold "Office Hours" for 60 minutes each week. These Office Hours are intended to be another way for you to reach out and communicate with any one of us in order to access support, navigate resources, and answer questions you or your child may have. It might help to think of Office Hours similar to "Open House" and are open to all students and families in a classroom. If you have specific concerns for your child, it would be best to set up a time to meet with the teacher outside of this open meeting. A copy of the new Master Schedule can be found below.

We have created a Remote Learning Site for families that will house all of the information you need in one place. This site can be found here and is linked from the homepage of our school website. More specific information about this site can be found below.

I want to thank you for reaching out to us with feedback on how learning is going in your home. We took all of this into consideration when planning for the months ahead and I ask that you please continue to provide us with feedback: we want this to work for families!

Best,
Alicia

EMES Class Meeting and Office Hours

Other Weekly Office Hours:

Art: Mondays 2:00 - 3:00
Music: Tuesdays 2:00—3:00
PE: Thursdays 2:00—3:00
Nurse Elizabeth: Wed 9:30-10:30
Mary Beth: Wednesday 8:00-9:00
Michael Sherwin: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri 8:00—9:00
Alicia: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri 8:00—9:00

Kindergarten—Mrs. Zeilenga:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Thursdays 9:00—10:00
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays 10:30—11:30

Grade 1—Mrs. Gariboldi:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Fridays 9:00—10:00
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays 9:00—10:00

Grade 1/2—Ms. Fecura:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Fridays 11:00—11:30
- Office Hours will be held Thursdays 11:00—12:00

Grade 2—Mrs. Parker:

- Class Meetings—Mondays 10:00—10:30 and Thursdays 10:30—11:00
- Office Hours will be held Mondays 10:30—11:30

Grade 3—Mrs. Fitch:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Thursdays 12:45—1:30
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays 1:00—1:30 and Fridays 10:30—11:00

Grade 3—Mrs. Giammusso:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Thursdays 9:30—10:00
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00—1:30

Grade 4—Ms. Gallagher:

- Class Meetings—Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00—1:30
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30—2:00

Grade 4—Mrs. Gannon:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Fridays 10:00—10:30
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00—10:30

Grades 5/6—Mrs. Shedd:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Fridays 10:00—10:30
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays 10:45—11:15 and Thursdays 1:30—2:00

Grades 5/6—Mr. Willard:

- Class Meetings—Mondays and Fridays 9:00—9:30
- Office Hours will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00—9:30

Closure of EMES Playground and Outside Recreational Areas

From learning that COVID-19 can live on certain surfaces for up to three days, all WCUUSD school playgrounds, tennis courts, and other outdoor recreational areas have been closed at this time and until the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order has been lifted. This is to help reduce community spread of COVID-19. Signs have been posted and we ask the community to refrain from using them for the immediate future.

We know that our students likely miss their friends from school but we want to emphasize that congregating, even outside, is not encouraged. Students and families should not use school grounds at this time and we are hopeful that you are finding other ways for kids to stay connected with peers during this challenging time.

We encourage our EMES families to continue taking advantage of the outdoors near your homes and at a safe social distance if you are otherwise in the community. We appreciate your understanding of our efforts to flatten the curve.

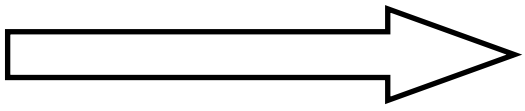
NEW! EMES Remote Learning Resources Website

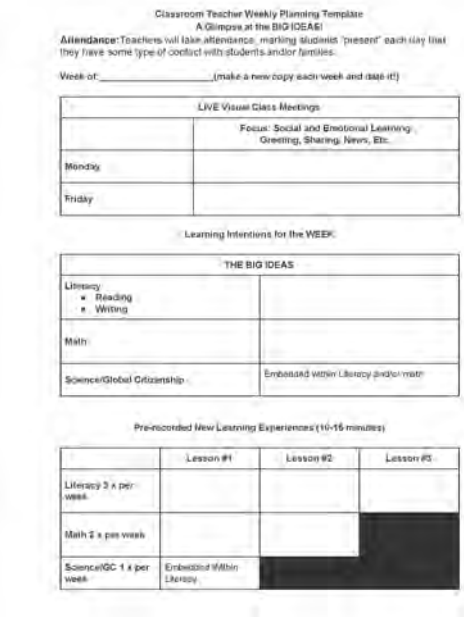
We have created an EMES Remote Learning Resources Website for families as we understand how challenging it is for everyone to keep track of all of the remote online learning tools! We developed this website as a one-stop-shop for the EMES community to quickly and easily find the online links and resources needed for all-things learning during this time!

You'll find this Remote Learning Website linked on the homepage of our EMES School Website, To find your homeroom classroom, hover your mouse over the "Classrooms" tab and then click on your grade level. To view the allied arts resources, hover over the "Allied Arts" tab and click on one of the options. We've also included PBIS Tips and Strategies for Home, information about our Food Services, Health, and Library during this time.

Once you've had an opportunity to explore this new website, we would love to hear feedback from you! Please feel free to contact your child's teachers or Mr. Sherwin at msherwin@u32.org with any suggestions or comments. We will continually update and change, according to the needs of students and families. We appreciate your patience while we smooth out any hiccups that might come along with the public launch of this new website!

For better uniformity for parents, when you click on a classroom teacher's page, the first thing you'll see is the learning template for the week.





Classroom Teacher Weekly Planning Template
A Glimpse at the BIG IDEAS!

Attendance: Teachers will take attendance, marking students "present" each day that they have some type of contact with students and/or families.

Week of: _____ (make a new copy each week and date it!)

LIVE Visual Class Meetings	
	Focus: Social and Emotional Learning: Greeting, Sharing, News, Etc.
Monday	
Friday	

Learning Intentions for the WEEK:

THE BIG IDEAS	
Literacy • Reading • Writing	
Math	
Science/Global Citizenship	Embedded within Literacy and/or math

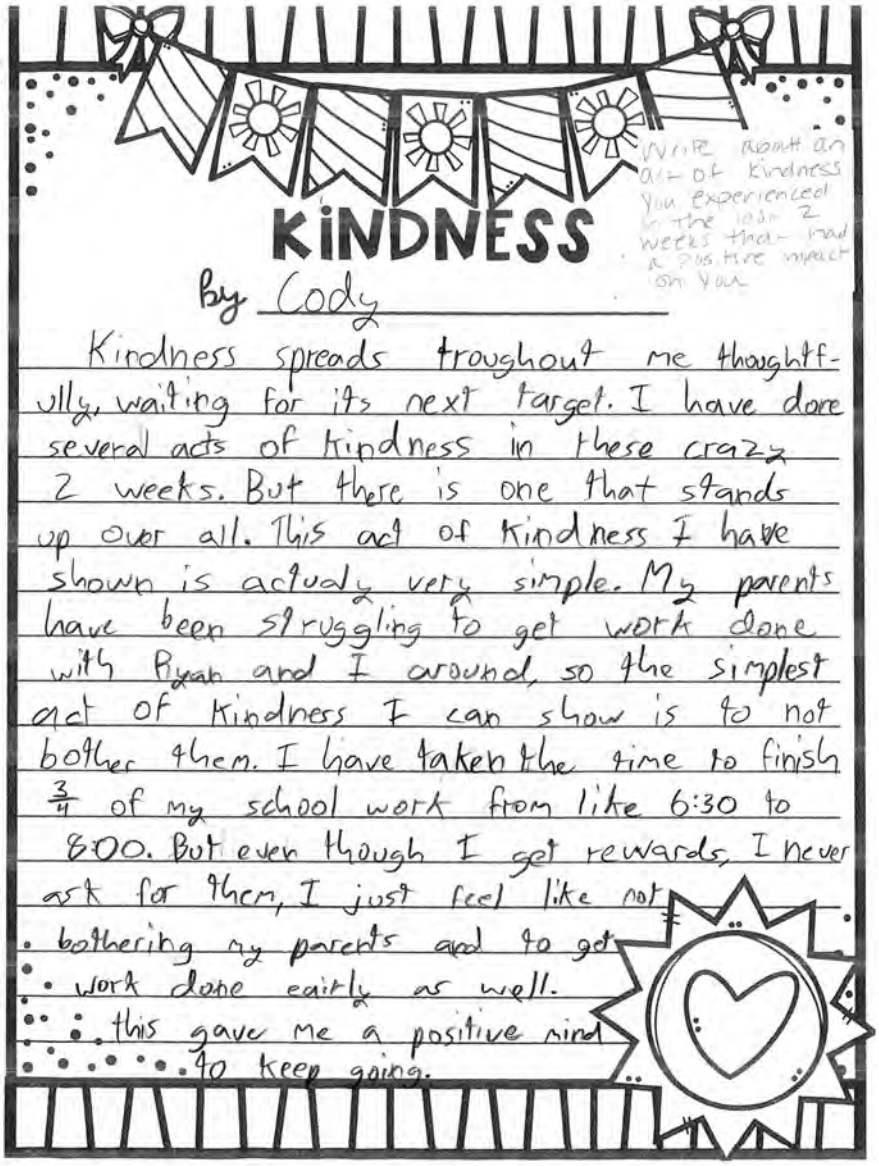
Pre-recorded New Learning Experiences (10-15 minutes)

	Lesson #1	Lesson #2	Lesson #3
Literacy 3 x per week			
Math 2 x per week			
Science/GC 1 x per week	Embedded Within Literacy		

Each classroom teacher will share this information weekly so you have a snapshot of what the week will look like, regardless of classroom. Youll need to scroll down the page to find more specifics on details of lessons, schedules, etc. You'll continue to receive updates from teachers through SeeSaw, Google Classroom, Daily Digests, etc. as well.

EMES Kindness Writing Prompts

We are hoping to have this be a regular feature throughout the spring. Parents, please send me your child's Kindness Writing Prompt for others to read! This week we will enjoy how Kindness was spread through Cody and Ryan Young's house!

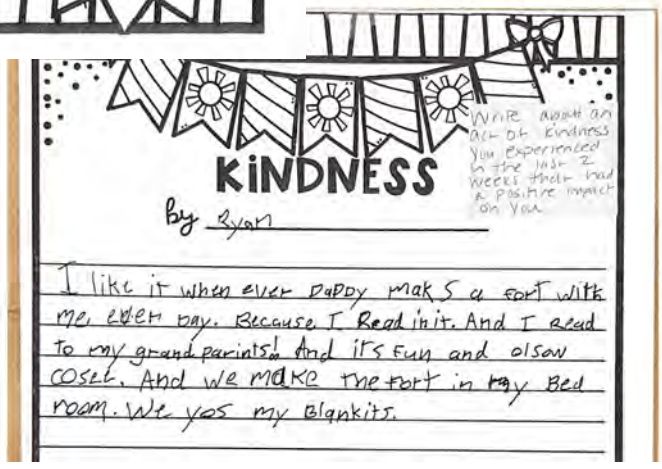


KINDNESS

Write about an act of kindness you experienced in the last 2 weeks that had a positive impact on you.

By Cody

Kindness spreads throughout me thoughtfully, waiting for its next target. I have done several acts of kindness in these crazy 2 weeks. But there is one that stands up over all. This act of kindness I have shown is actualy very simple. My parents have been struggling to get work done with Ryan and I around, so the simplest act of kindness I can show is to not bother them. I have taken the time to finish $\frac{3}{4}$ of my school work from like 6:30 to 8:00. But even though I get rewards, I never ask for them, I just feel like not bothering my parents and to get work done eairly as well. this gave me a positive mind to keep going.



KINDNESS

Write about an act of kindness you experienced in the last 2 weeks that had a positive impact on you.

By Ryan

I like it when ever Daddy makes a fort with me, ever day. Because I Read in it. And I read to my grand parints! And it's fun and olsow cosel. And we make the fort in my Bed room. We yes my Blankits.

EMES Remote Learning and Behavior Support

Dear EMES Families,

I hope everyone is safe and well, and not going too crazy being at home for an extended period of time. I know for myself, the time at home with family is a blessing in disguise, but has presented a few challenges. If your family would like to discuss any behavioral supports - from ideas of activities to do with your kids to making some plans around routines and responding to unexpected behavior at home, I am available. I have office hours M, T, Th and F from 8:00-9:00am. You can reach me anytime at msherwin@u32.org.

I have posted on the PBIS at Home page of the EMES Remote Learning Website some modules you can work through to set up PBIS in your home. This is similar to what we do at school for PBIS. I have also posted some links to documents from PBIS and the Vermont Dept of Education around supporting families at home with behavior. Some of these documents have a lot of content, and I am more than happy to talk with you about them. Please reach out if you are interested. This information is voluntary--if everything is running smoothly at home, that is awesome!

Thanks

Michael Sherwin

PBIS Behavior Coach

Health Update from Nurse Elizabeth - April 2020

In Vermont tick activity is highest in the spring, summer and fall. Vermont is entering a period of high tick activity. It's important to take the proper precautions to prevent tick bites and tickborne illness.

We are aware during this time of school closure that children may be spending a lot of time in the outdoors. It's important to allow children access to the outdoors while remaining vigilant of their safety. Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases can be devastating with great losses of function and ability.

In previous years all our classes have been taught to do a quick head-to-toe check when they come in from outdoors. It takes some time for ticks to attach and this will hopefully prevent attachment.

IT IS IMPORTANT to carefully examine your children thoroughly for the presence of ticks as soon as possible after being in grassy or brushy areas, including back yards and at least once a day.

- Check all **body parts that bend** including: behind the knee, between fingers & toes and underarms
- Check other **areas where ticks are commonly found** including: belly button, in and behind the ear, neck, hairline, top of head
- Check **pressure points** including: where underwear elastic touches the skin, where bands from pants and skirts touch the skin, anywhere else where clothing presses on skin
- Go back and visually check all other areas
- Run fingers gently over skin. If there is a tick and it is attached, it will feel like the last piece of scab left before a cut completely heals.

Shower after all outdoor activities are over for the day. If the tick is still wandering it may wash off.

Clothing can be put into a hot dryer for at least 15 minutes. Ticks can survive the washing machine, but are killed by hot dry air.

If a tick is found, remove it carefully with fine tweezers. Grab as closely to the skin as possible. **Do not** squeeze the body, apply Vaseline, use a burnt match, or clean with alcohol while the tick is attached. Any of these actions could cause transmission of the bacteria.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension - How to remove a tick using tweezers and /or a 'tick spoon' (3 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ14TP7FSQk

Check out the VDH website for more information:Vermont Department of Health - Tick Information

Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

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Dear Teachers, Caseworkers and Caregivers,

Thank you so much for all you are doing to help our community and our families through this very complicated time. As a part-time teacher and as one who works with at-risk populations, I understand the tremendous burden you bear on your shoulders and on your heart. You are wading through the most difficult aspects that we are facing right now: education, identifying and meeting needs, and caring for those who are now enduring great loneliness and isolation. I know you are working very hard and bearing the weight of knowing the hurt that is overwhelming many. I want to offer help and hope.

Connecting Hope is a local organization that provides help and hope to those in need. The HOPELINE is a hotline for people facing crisis. Right now, we are particularly concerned with those struggling to secure adequate food, unable to pay for housing or utilities, or other needs that interfere with their well-being. If you identify these families or individuals, please, ask them to contact the HOPELINE. (802) 622-4244 or connectinghopecvt@gmail.com. They will leave a message and a volunteer will return their call.

The HOPELINE will help those in need in several ways: We will help people communicate with a network of our partner community organizations such as Capstone, Family Center, churches, and many others. We will help people with applications for unemployment, food stamps, etc. Then, Connecting Hope will help to fill gaps in need left behind. Connecting Hope is often able to identify resources and, then, provide for additional unmet needs including gas, phone cards, and other essential items along with food, housing, or utility assistance. Finally, Connecting Hope can assist with spiritual needs including prayer and connection with a local church for counsel. (Accepting these spiritual services are not a requirement for other assistance.)

Connecting Hope is here to help. Please, call or email with any questions.

Be well and warm,

Susan South

Executive Director
Connecting Hope

We will overcome and emerge stronger together!