

Welcome back *Cougars!*

We are so very excited to welcome you all to the 2020-21 school year at Arno Elementary. Although we are starting in a different way this year, we are determined to make this the best year for all of our students!

I am hoping that everyone found some time to relax, have lots of fun, spend quality time together- and maybe even get a tan... and now we are looking forward to fall and cider mills and getting back to some school work. As always Arno is dedicated to providing the best education with our caring teachers who have always gone above and beyond every year. This past summer, many of our staff, as well as parents, were involved in focus groups that worked through the issues that the current situation has presented, and finding solutions that work best for all of our stakeholders. We took a look at academics, student and staff safety, specials, special education, and extra curricular items. The group provided focus and input on the district plan, as well as how we all move forward in both the in-person world- and the virtual one. As a result, we have a plan for all scenarios depending on the Phase our region is in, and we plan on making sure our kids don't just tread water this year- but actually continue their movement forward in their education here at Arno.

There have been many questions from our parents and I wanted to provide the latest information that you need to know for the upcoming school year.

- **September 2 (First Day of School):** Please save this date! We will be holding a drive by "meet the teacher" event from 9 am-12 pm on September 2. Students will be able to drive up, say hi to their teacher and teachers will be handing out workbooks or any items that students will need to start the year. As we did in the spring, times to visit will be determined by last name. **Students whose last name starting with:**
 - **A-H** will drive by between 9-10am,
 - **I-Q** can drive by between 10-11am,
 - **R-Z** can visit between 11am-12pm.

During the afternoon of September 2, teachers will be hosting their first video meeting to start to get to know students. They will provide you information about this event.

- **Meet the Teacher:** This evening is typically a great opportunity for families to meet their child's teacher and get to know some of the expectations for the school year. Since we cannot hold this event in person, teachers will be creating a video that introduces themselves to each student and family and provide a brief overview of some of the important tools students will need to get started with remote learning. These videos will be released to families on September 2. They will go out to families via email and will also be posted on our website for families to reference later if needed.

- **Student login information** Student login information can be accessed via the link: <http://bit.ly/arnolog>. Student's ID number can be found in the Parent Portal and it's the number that starts with "2001".
- **Tech:** We are excited that this year students K-12 will all have access to a Chromebook to use in school as well as for virtual or remote learning. Our elementary students will be getting touch screen devices that can be used as a computer and a tablet. These have all been ordered, but we are waiting for these devices to be delivered. Since it could be a few more weeks before the new ones are ready to be handed out.
- **If you have already requested a temporary device- the tech department will contact you to schedule a date to pick up this computer.**
- **Student schedules** will be available August 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. for those families that have chosen to stay with their regular classroom assignment. ***Please be sure you have completed all of the *Back to School* updates that are necessary in order to access your child's teacher.
- **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken daily by your classroom teacher. In most cases, students will be recorded as present through appearing on the classroom Zoom. There may be some instances where your child is unable to do a Zoom that day- they can then be counted present either through interacting online through a Google Classroom assignment, or actually turning in a Good Classroom assignment that same day.

Social Emotional Needs of our students

We recognize that the school closure and disruption to normal routines may have had an impact on many students and families. Please review some of the resources below. Arno's new Social Worker, Dana Brown, can be of assistance in this area if you need to reach out to her. You can find many resources from our district social work page at:

<http://allenparksocialworkers.weebly.com/social-emotional-learning-at-home.html>

Sample Elementary Resources for social emotional at-home:

- **A-Z Activities for Coping** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EXpkVw3fh0>
- **Sesame Street Belly Breathe**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mZbzDOpyIA&feature=emb_title
- **Breathe Think Do Sesame Street App**
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/breathe-think-do-with-sesame/id721853597>
- **Yoga and meditation for young elementary**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYI0TPJOuGk>
<https://awakeandmindful.com/best-kids-yoga-videos-on-youtube/>
- **Cosmic Kids Yoga and Mindfulness** <https://youtu.be/0ImHIWzP49M>

How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Designate a comfortable place where your child will work independently
- Be sure your child attends every online class daily and logs in on time, ready for the day's learning experience and completes all assignments
- Remind your child to let his/her teachers know if there are questions- our teachers are there to support all of our students.
- Monitor Google Classroom updates and be sure to check in with your child daily about learning tasks, activities and assessments they are working
- Dedicate appropriate time to learning, comparable to a school day and/or as guided by your teachers.
- Attend Zoom learning experiences that are offered by each of your teacher's.
- Please let your child's teacher know if they will be absent- teachers are taking daily attendance based on in-person Zoom meetings and/or assignments turned in.
- Help your child to understand that work **will be graded** this fall (appropriate to the grade level)- they will not be earning a participation grade like spring

Classroom Weekly Schedules

You may have already seen a copy of a sample elementary schedule for the first 5 weeks from the district website:

https://www.allenparkschools.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1856009&type=d&pREC_ID=2007551

Please keep in mind that each teacher will be building the specifics of each "block", which will be sent to their families in their class. You can expect that daily assignments will be posted by each morning, and that weekly you will receive an overview of learning targets every Monday.

Please click on the link below to hear a brief explanation of the **daily elementary schedule**:

<https://youtu.be/AJZZb-IHEwE>

Although these times do not feel normal, we are all in this together, as it has always been at Arno- Together we will make that difference that will make our students excel!

Welcome Back!



Arno on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arnoelementary>

Arno Family Blog: <https://arnofamily.edublogs.org/>

Arno Remind: <https://www.remind.com/join/arno2020>

