

Hello Westside Families!

We are truly living in unprecedented times. I hope this newsletter finds you in good mental and physical health. I can't tell you how much we miss your children. I am a hunter and I always say a bad day in the woods is better than a good day at work.... Well I don't think I will be using that saying for a while. At this point I would take a bad day at school over a good day at home!

We are all well aware of how stressful this time is for all of us. Between reductions to income, to worrying about getting sick, worrying about our friends and family getting sick, how to social distance but keep our littles socially connected, to trying to do school it is A LOT!

I am here to tell you that Westside does NOT want school to add any undue stress on your family. Our teachers are working very hard to try to engage with your kids, and I appreciate their efforts. We also recognize that parents are not teachers. My kids at home do not respond as well to me teaching them lessons the past few weeks as they do with their actual teachers. KASD has no word from the DPI when we will be able to open again, so we are in this for the long haul. With that in mind, please pace yourself when doing lessons with your children. Our teachers do an amazing job, when we are in school, of personalizing your child's education. Now that responsibility falls more on your laps. If your child needs more learning opportunities reach out to your teacher. If the opportunities provided are too much, do parts of it, or ask the teacher for other options. I would rather all of our students engage in 30% of all of the learning opportunities the entire time we are away vs. all of our students doing 100% of the work for 2 weeks and then doing nothing because you or your child is burned out.

Speaking of burn out, many of our Westside teachers are actually working more hours now than when we were in school! I will be asking them to look at when parents are contacting them most and set office hours around that. This means one teacher may work 8am - 10am, 12pm-2pm and then 5pm-8pm. This also means you or your child may have to wait for feedback. Nothing we are doing needs to happen immediately so I hope all of us can be understanding. These are trying times and we all need a break once in a while and I am hoping we can work as well together virtually as we do normally!

I can't tell you enough how much I miss seeing your children! I hope you enjoy my read alouds and Norbert's cameos. Norbert should be coming out with another video today and I will be reading another story on our Westside Elementary Read Alouds Facebook page....and if your child watches me read to them that counts towards reading!!!!

Warmest Regards,

Jonathan Peterson