



BOTELLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

128 Greenwoods Road E
Norfolk CT 06058

LAUREN VALENTINO, PRINCIPAL

March 23, 2020

Dear Botelle Families,

The Governor has extended school closings until April 22, 2020. Our teachers and staff have been preparing for this possibility and we are organizing ourselves for distance learning.

Phase One of distance learning is the paper packets our teachers prepared, which you picked up at school last week. Thank you for coming to get these materials! Your child should continue working on the assignments their teachers prepared for them. Many of these assignments connect to what students were learning prior to the closing of school. They were created with the understanding that school would be closed until the end of March.

Phase Two of distance learning will begin on Wednesday, April 1. Teachers and staff are planning short lessons of live, virtual instruction with continued assignments in Reading, Math, Writing and PE, Library, Art and Music. We will be using Google Meet (which is like Zoom) for the live portion of instruction and interactive platforms like Google Classroom (in the intermediate grades) and See Saw (in all grades) for assignments. Your children know how to use these platforms, with the exception of Google Meet. There will be information on the website soon that will help you and your child navigate these electronic resources. A virtual Good News Gathering will be held on March 31 using Google Meet that will give us all practice before Phase Two starts.

Phase Two will be implemented over time. This will give students, families and staff time to get used to distance learning. April 1-3, the only live instruction will be Morning Meeting and special services. Support staff will contact families of students who receive services like speech, counseling, and specialized academic instruction to schedule 1 to 1 sessions. The next week, live instruction will include Reading and Math. Each week we will roll out more live, virtual instruction. A schedule is attached that tells you what your child will be learning and when.

Attendance during distance learning is very important. Teachers will be taking daily attendance and monitoring attendance during live instruction. However, we realize that some students may not be available when the scheduled live instruction is happening. To support the learning of all students, lessons will be recorded so students can watch them at a later time. If your child is sick and will be unable to attend live instruction or complete daily assignments, please email Mrs. Lasko.

Teachers will be checking assignments and giving students feedback on their work. We want to keep the relationship that students have with their teacher strong. Teachers and staff will be available by email from 8:30-3:30 and will be checking their email regularly. Dr. Iacobelli and I are also available via email. Please don't hesitate to reach out as we embark on this new school journey together. Education has always been a partnership between school and home but now more than ever, we need to work together. We are committed to making distance learning as engaging and relevant as possible and over the next few weeks, we will learn a lot together. I am confident that "together we will SOAR at Botelle School" even when the building is closed.

Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Lauren Valentino