

ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL CONNECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year! When thinking about school and your child(ren)'s success... have you wondered how you can continue to support their virtual learning? Here are some ideas to support your child(ren)'s success:

Take Time to Chit Chat: When I asked my children how school was going, their typical reply was always, "Fine." If I asked, "What did you learn today?" I usually got a response of "Nothing" or "I don't know." Sometimes, it was like pulling teeth when talking to my kids about school! Instead, try asking your child these questions: What made you laugh today in your Teams meeting? What was something that was tricky for you? Did anything make you sad today? What made you smile? These questions will spark conversation and help you to get a window into your child's day. Listen closely to your child's replies to these questions and then ask more specific questions about your child's story. You will find out a lot more information, this way, and will help your child to practice his/her conversation skills.

School is the Place to Be! Even virtually, your child(ren) cannot afford to miss a day away from "school." Whether synchronously or asynchronously, the more students are engaged in learning, the higher their achievement. Our virtual teachers are fantastic but being absent from learning may cause your child to become behind in their academics. And, catching up with missed activities and assignments can be very difficult. Please make sure your children are attending their synchronous meetings, as scheduled, and are submitting their work in Canvas/Seesaw. If you have any questions, please contact your child(ren)'s teacher(s).

Notice. Praise. Repeat. Recognizing students for effort is more effective than rewarding them for high grades. Students try their best and want to make you proud. Therefore, the best way to motivate further effort is to notice it, praise it, so that they repeat it. For example, notice and praise the effort involved in a math problem: "Wow, you really worked hard to think through all of those steps. You didn't even think about giving up! Do you think you can do that again on the next problem?" Praise children for the process of learning versus the product.

We can't do this without you! Finally, continue to be involved! How important is parent involvement in their children's education? Study after study shows that it may be the top factor leading to student success. So... thank you for all you do!!

We look forward to continuing to work with you for the success of your children. Please feel free to contact me with any questions by calling 715-852-3070 or by email at lschlichting@ecasd.us.

Partnering with you,

Laura Schlichting, Elementary Virtual Program Administrator



Upcoming Dates:

Fri., Jan. 29 and Fri., Feb. 12: Materials
Pick-up at Home Schools



Important Message for Families of Students in Grades 3-5

Students across Wisconsin are preparing for the Forward Exam, this spring. Unlike our other assessments, virtual students will need to go to a school building to take these tests. More information regarding location, time, transportation, etc. will be shared in the next few weeks. However, please put the following date(s) on your calendar for this in-person obligation.

Save the date:

Grade 5 **Wednesday, March 24 for all Cohort C students**

Grade 4 **Two Wednesdays: April 7 and April 14 for all Cohort C students**

Grade 3 **Wednesday, April 21 for Cohort C students from the following home schools:**

Flynn, Lakeshore, Manz, Putnam Heights, and Sherman

Wednesday, April 28 for Cohort C students from the following home schools:

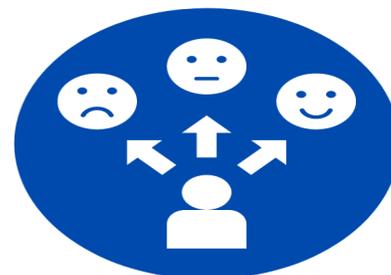
Longfellow, Locust Lane, Meadowview, Montessori, Northwoods, Roosevelt, and

Sam Davey

Creating a Comfortable At-Home Learning Space

IDENTIFY THE RIGHT SPACE FOR LEARNING

- Know your child's learning preferences. Do they prefer a quiet place or somewhere with a little background noise? Have them try different areas to determine which they prefer.
- Whenever possible, identify a space that can be used for learning only. If you do need to use a shared space, try "re-setting" it to a learning space each time a child sits down to learn.



ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS

- If using a shared space, try to organize the area to give privacy when a student is learning. Use headphones if a room is too noisy or have the student facing away from where siblings or other family members may be.
- Turn off phones and social media so students are only focused on screens for learning.
- Have dedicated breaks from the screen so that checking phones will not be as tempting.



CUSTOMIZE THE LEARNING SPACE

- Make the space comfortable to learn, but try not to make it *too* comfortable. Students should be able to sit upright and maintain good posture—and hold that position long enough for their activities.
- Allow your child to put up decorations or make the space their own. If they share with a sibling, try giving them each a portion to decorate.

