



# ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL CONNECTION

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families!

This school year, many students in the ECASD are learning virtually. We know that many families would prefer for their child(ren) to be in a classroom alongside peers, but for many reasons, that is not possible, right now. And we also know that depending on the age of your child(ren), there are varying amounts of support that you are needing to give in their education. We recognize this commitment and thank you for your support as we partner in their learning.

Jennifer Serravallo writes in her book, Connecting with Students Online (2020), that there are a few ways that families and teachers can work together:

Caregivers are not expected to homeschool your children; your child(ren)'s teacher will be providing lessons, feedback, and ways to practice new learning. Your help with having a place in which to work, time to do the work, and the encouragement to cheer them on is invaluable!

Student independence is important. Students should do their own work because that's how they learn. If teachers can really know how a child is doing, future instruction can be planned, appropriately. In fact, making mistakes is welcomed... the learning process is just as important as getting the "right" answer.

Caregivers can encourage problem solving skills so students can work through their own questions and challenges, learning how to persevere and tackle new challenges with a positive, growth mindset.

Sometimes, when students ask for help, they may be asking for something different... a snack, some attention, or do another, more-preferred, activity... and then, there are times when the work really is too difficult or has already been mastered. In either case, please connect with your child's teacher at these times. Then, the teacher can adjust an assignment or offer additional support, as needed. It's important that we communicate with each other on how to best help your child(ren) grow and learn!

Thank you for your support and communication as we continue to grow our virtual learning program. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by calling 715-852-3070 or by email at [Schlichting@ecasd.us](mailto:Schlichting@ecasd.us).

Partnering with you,

Laura Schlichting, Elementary Virtual Program Administrator

Eau Claire Area School District



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri., Nov. 6 Materials Pick-up at Home Schools
- Mon., Nov. 16 and Nov. 23 Virtual Family Conferences
- Tue., Nov. 24-Sun., Nov. 29 Thanksgiving Break; No virtual learning expectations



## FAMILY-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Please sign up for your conference time through Microsoft Bookings. Information about this sign-up process has been shared by your child(ren)'s teacher. Please contact your child(ren)'s teacher if you have any questions.



# VIRTUAL LEARNING TIPS

## KEEP A STEADY SCHEDULE

On days your student is learning from home, try to maintain a consistent schedule as much as possible. Take breaks and have lunch at around the same time each day. This will provide a sense of structure for students.

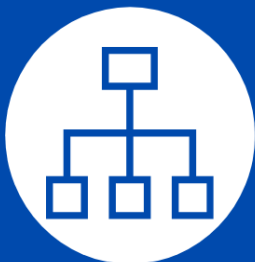


## CREATE THE RIGHT SPACE

Designate a room or area of your home where your student will do all or most of their virtual learning. Make this space as conducive to learning as possible, with a table or desk, comfortable chair, adequate lighting and relatively few distractions.

## CHECK IN ON LEARNING

Be sure to check your email for any messages from your child's teachers. Ask your student about the assignments they are working on and upcoming due dates. Have your child give you a brief progress report in the morning and afternoon.



## STAY ORGANIZED

Encourage your child to stay organized in both their physical and digital spaces. Their work area should be free of clutter and distractions. On their laptops or mobile devices, they should have a good system for storing files and documents so they can find what they need quickly.

## BE PATIENT

Virtual learning does not come easily to everyone. While the pandemic remains a factor in our lives, students may need some extra help staying on track and getting accustomed to the demands the virtual learning presents. Be understanding and patient as your student makes these transitions.

