

ELEMENTARY VIRTUAL CONNECTION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During this time of year, families often think about the kinds of gifts to give their children. One tradition in our home was that there was always “something to read” as a wrapped present. That has now continued with our grandchildren. Whether it’s a new or gently used book or magazine... the gift of reading is one that we have cherished.

In the book, [The Distance Learning Playbook for Parents](#), the authors note that children learn about the world in many ways. Much of the academic knowledge needed for success comes through reading.

There is a correlation, or relationship, between the amount of reading students do and their academic success. One study shared that students who read for 15 minutes a day beyond their regular school-work, read an average of 1,168,000 words a year and scored at the 70th percentile on reading assessments. The numbers increase with every minute of outside reading. Students who read for 65 minutes a day read an additional 4,733,000 words a year and scored at the 98th percentile! And here’s the best news... Reading anything counts!! Comic books, joke books, graphic novels, narrative stories, books about video games and sports, and informational texts... it all counts!

Students who read for 65 minutes a day read an additional 4,733,000 words a year and scored at the 98th percentile! And here’s the best news... Reading anything counts!! Comic books, joke books, graphic novels, narrative stories, books about video games and sports, and informational texts... it all counts!

One concern with distance learning is that some students may not be getting regular opportunities to read both for learning and enjoyment. Synchronous learning focuses on interaction with the teacher, and we can only hope that students are reading outside of those times. So, one of the best gifts you can give your children is the encouragement for daily reading. Rather than making it a chore, make it be something that you look forward to each day. Here are some ideas that authors, Wiseman, Fisher, Frey and Hattie suggest: talk with a teacher or librarian about “just right” books; explore sites that offer free electronic versions of texts; read with your children; talk to our children about what they are reading for fun; invite your children to browse and select things to read; talk to your children about what they are reading for school; and make sure they see you reading and talking about your reading. For more suggestions about how to support reading at home, please reach out to our teachers. They are happy to help!

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.

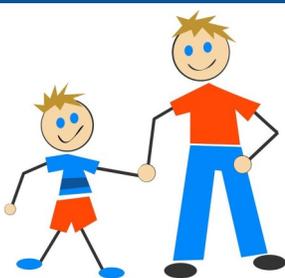
Partnering with you,

Laura Schlichting, Elementary Virtual Program Administrator



Upcoming Dates:

Fri., Jan. 15 and Fri., Jan. 29: Materials Pick-up at Home Schools



A Parent Guide: Support Your Child During Virtual Learning:

https://efisd.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3451/File/migration/School%20Information/PG-2-VirtLearn.pdf

Overcoming the BIGGEST Challenges with Virtual Learning

AVOIDING DISTRACTIONS

- Emphasize personal accountability
- Celebrate when you reach your goals and other milestones
- Set goals and deadlines and stick to them
- Be specific about what work needs to be finished



FEELING ISOLATED

- Participate in discussions online, ask questions and be an active member of your online classes
- Socialize virtually with friends outside of school hours
- Join virtual clubs or programs offered by your school
- Join a study group or learning pod with other classmates and families

FINDING BALANCE

- Create a family schedule with specific goals and expectations
- Include and embrace taking breaks, especially from screen time
- Focus on self-care by embracing a new hobby or revisiting something you love to do
- Reach out to your teachers for additional support and resources



TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

- Familiarize yourself with the tools and technology used in the classroom and ask questions
- Review the rules for using technology safely and practice good digital citizenship
- Test out your equipment before class, including microphones, headphones, internet connection and passwords
- Contact your teachers or school if you run into any technical issues