

May 7, 2020

Dear First Grade Mustang Families,

We're almost through another week. You've made it through seven weeks of At-Home Learning. (I'm not going to count Spring Break.) I think we should change that name to At-Home *Teaching* and Learning, because you are all doing an incredible job of providing your children with instruction and resources. I'm grateful to see so many good questions from parents when I open my email. I'm also impressed with all of the things families are sharing with me. I'll be honest; I've tucked some of those things away to use in the classroom in the future. You are a creative bunch!

Mrs. Decker, Mrs. Brandt, Mrs. Grant, and I meet weekly via video conference. Yesterday during our meeting we talked about how long the weeks must be feeling for students and parents. I said all of our families deserve kudos for becoming teachers overnight. If someone plopped me in the middle of a clinic, a retail store, a restaurant, a farm field, an office, a court room, or anywhere other than a classroom and said, "This is your new job" and I had no notice, no training, and no time to prepare, I couldn't do it. Of course, they're YOUR children and you know them and teach them every day. But not like this. We've been throwing lessons and emails at you every week, and you do it all and sometimes more. Some of you are teaching at home while also working from home. Some of you are teaching in the evening after work or in the morning before work as an essential employee outside of your home. THANK YOU for all you're doing to keep your children connected to learning. The learning packets we requested are in the mail, so you should be receiving those soon. Watch for instructions in the May 12 Checklist. We hope that having those paper copies will help things flow more smoothly.

This weekend we'll celebrate moms. To all the dads reading this, you're welcome for the reminder. 😊 (I know not all dads need a reminder, but I saw the look of quiet panic on Mr. Bauer's face when we saw a commercial for Mother's Day on TV last night.) To all the moms reading this, Happy Mother's Day to you! I feel fortunate to be in a pretty awesome club with so many amazing ladies. As someone who has been celebrated as a mom for nearly 30 years, I want you to know that you should accept all gifts and gestures with no guilt. You deserve every wonderful thing that comes your way on Sunday, as well as any other time of the year...especially this year. You've had to be more available, more flexible, more creative, and more patient. You really are – in the words and spelling of so many first graders – "osom."

Happily your child's first grade teacher,
Mrs. Bauer