

A GCCS Memo to the School Community (regarding Continuity of Learning Plans)
Sent on March 26th, 2020

Continuing the Learning While Home

1. When GCCS closed last Monday (it's only been a week and a half!), our school considered multiple phases of closure. We are wrapping up Phase I this week. This phase was focused on family connections and communication, learning opportunities and skill practice (using the Emergency Packets and known online tools such as i-Ready), establishing a classroom "home base" (SeeSaw or Google Classroom), and ensuring families were aware and receiving needed resources (food, medication, childcare, transportation, internet and device access).
2. With the uncertainty of the length of school closure, next week, we will move into Phase II. During this phase, teachers will begin to deliver some online lessons experimenting with platforms that are user friendly and accessible for students. Some may be "mini-lessons" to watch with a student task to complete. Some lessons will be directions or prompts for students to follow. We are very sensitive to the length of screen-time and will keep this in mind as we begin to trial consistent distance learning. Additionally, we are also well aware that many of our families work in health care, are first responders, or considered "essential staff." Therefore, teachers will start to communicate which lessons are essential and which are additional learning opportunities. IF we have to move into Phase III (this would begin the week of April 13th), we would fully launch a very consistent approach to distance learning that is developmentally appropriate and responsive to family needs/abilities.
3. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CONTINUED LEARNING** - It is a must that schools are documenting student "attendance" during our closure. We are marking a student as "present" if teachers and staff have evidence of student home learning. At this time, a student is "present" if he/she/they log(s) time into i-Ready lessons, parents communicate home learning accomplishments to teachers, students post on SeeSaw/Google Classroom, or students participate in zoom/google hangout class morning meetings. Teachers will communicate additional ways students can be marked as "present" daily. However, if we have no evidence of student participation throughout an entire 24-hour day, we will have to mark the student as "absent" for the day and the school will follow up just as we would if we didn't have notification regarding an absence. Therefore, it is important that you communicate with teachers frequently so we can stay up-to-date on your child's learning progress.

Community Connections

In our last school-wide email, we expressed our understanding that this is a time of physical, mental, and social isolation. We want you to feel like you have some people in the GCCS community you can "go to" if needed. Please take advantage of our Teachers and Staff, Classroom Parent Volunteer Coordinators, and the GCCS Hotline if needed.