



Jess M. Giannini
Principal

Amy Borio
Assistant Principal

"Together we Share, Discover, Create, and Achieve"

May 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Yesterday, we received the news that schools in Connecticut will be closed for the remainder of the school year. While it certainly was no surprise with 40+ other states having already closed as of yesterday, it still stings.

Immediately, my mind starts working. Dreaming up plans for all the next steps. Then, it hits me. None of "those" plans really matter as much as our children and how they are feeling at the moment.

So, I wanted to send a quick note with a few ideas that I believe are important to have mentioned to your children. I know they were helpful in talking with my own daughters.

- You are safe. This is so important for kids to know this from their grownups.
- Your grownups are working to keep you safe. That is why we cannot go back now, but we are working on a plan to make sure that happens!
- Do you have questions for me? Share a question you have about things to get them talking if needed.
- Your teachers and principals are just as sad as you are about not going back to school.
- Your friends are still your friends and miss you too!
- You've built up incredible resilience, perseverance, and independence during this time. Then, make a list of the ways.
- We will go back to school! When the time is right (Let's all keep our fingers crossed that means August!) we will return to school.
- We can keep talking about this. Let them know this conversation doesn't need to be a one and done.

Finally, make a plan. All children handle things differently. If your child is taking this news harder than expected, make a plan to work on that. Maybe it is writing to his or her teacher. Maybe a virtual playdate with friends. Maybe it is simply saying, "No matter what, we will find a way to see Mrs. __ or Mr. __ again to say goodbye!" The plan is important because in those "moments" you can return to it to help our child out. "I know you are feeling sad at the moment. Remind me, what was our plan again?"

OK, some kids might cheer when they hear the news. I probably would have when I was 9. But, that was because I didn't know any better. And, after a few days I might have started to feel differently. It is hard to know because all of this is occurring in such uncharted waters.

In anticipation of this, our school social worker and psychologist are creating a social emotional learning website to share with our students. It is filled with ideas to keep our children feeling good over the coming weeks. This will be shared with you soon. In the near future, I will share additional plans as they relate to this closure. For now, I wanted to make sure my students were feeling the best they could under the circumstances.

If your child needs anything during this time, please reach out, our staff will do their best to help him or her through this challenging time.

Warm Regards,

Jess Giannini
Principal