

Getting ready for Monday

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Dear SWES families,

Sat, Mar 21, 2020 at 10:27 AM

On both the district's and our school's homepages, you will see the same button labeled [Updates and Information During the School Closure](#). Clicking on that button will bring you to a page with a number of important links on its left hand side including this [link](#) which shares specific learning opportunities and resources for your children while school is closed. Please check out this information as there are many valuable resources for you and your students.

As mentioned in my last email, beginning this Monday you will be hearing from your classroom teachers directly with some suggested activities for your children over the next two weeks (this may change if/when state or federal protocols are updated). This communication is purposely similar to what SWES students are used to getting as morning messages during their classroom meetings. However, while we are away from campus, we will refer to these as your teachers' "Daily Message." The label is important for two main reasons. First, we will not be meeting in person and secondly, though the daily messages will be "dropped" each school day by 8:30am, we realize that each household may, by necessity, need to schedule things differently and will need to open them at very different times of the day. We realize these times will likely change given all that families are juggling during this unprecedented time. Parents and guardians of elementary students will need the flexibility to schedule times for your children to be online when appropriate. In other words, please feel free to schedule activities when you can cover what you can with no worries about what is "required." Right now, as stated on the website; *Our approach to remote learning reflects explicit direction districts across the state have received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). We recognize that these online experiences cannot replicate the day-to-day school experience, nor can they be a substitute for the in-person experiences, interactions and supports that our schools provide for our*

students.

Over the past week, I have developed a new-found respect for people who work at home and online. I hope you cut yourselves and your children some slack as you navigate the next weeks. Setting a daily schedule is certainly a great goal, but choosing times to be offline and getting outside with your children when the weather calls for it are just as important. Here at our house, we rediscovered jigsaw puzzles, card and board games, and actually watching a movie *together* are all a lot more fun than we remembered. And our cat, Calliope, doesn't know what to do with all the attention she's getting!

I will be in touch again after we get next week started. In the meantime, feel free to send me or your classroom teachers questions after the daily messages start.

Best to you all and your children.