

April 14, 2020

Dear WLA Families,

We are already in week three of this Distance Learning experience and are making adjustments per the information we received back from parent surveys. The surveys were sent out last week and I want to thank all of the families that provided support, appreciation, and suggestions for our WLA program. I also want to thank the staff at WLA for being responsive to student and family needs. We will continue to build on these early Distance Learning efforts to ensure that the education of our students goes as smoothly as possible. Some of the adjustments we are making this week are, and we hope modifications (such as listed below, but not limited to) helps alleviate stress.

- Some grade levels are building in “catch-up” work days
- Some grade levels are decreasing the amount of daily work assigned
- All WLA staff members are ensuring that they are available to support our stakeholders. Teachers and para professionals in particular, are adjusting their work day routines as needed, so that they can assist with assignment clarification and completion
- Although specialists are an important element of our curriculum programming at WLA, we understand the need to modify this area. Thus, specialist courses being an enrichment opportunity, are not required at the current time, and students will not receive a trimester three grade on report card for specialists. However, we do encourage families to participate in the newly revised and fun specialist activities.

As we move forward for the remainder of the school year, please note that Governor Tim Walz mentioned last week, that the likelihood of students returning to the classroom this school year is slim. I think we all understand the difficulties that families have managing their children’s education along with other responsibilities, and the pressure that teachers are under to provide quality instruction from remote locations. Most of all, I think we all feel for the students who are not able to interact with their peers, and maintain their normal childhood routines.

Finally, during this uncertain time, WLA is moving full steam ahead with our school renovations and ordering curriculum materials for the coming school year. What a joyous time it will be when we are able to resume operations on-site! Hold that thought, as we will all get through this together.

Thank you~
Dr. Mortensen