



## Distance Learning Academy News

December 14, 2020

Dear Families,

We hope you had a great weekend!

We would like to thank all of the families who attended our webinar last week on special education topics. We also are very appreciative of our team: Beth Fitzmaurice, Maura Tynes, Tracey Hatch, Ally Andrews, Katie Lindley and Mark Nacht for joining us.

Below, please find some important information and updates, and thank you again for your support.

Warmly,  
Jen, Jodie, Kristen and Maura



### **An Excerpt from Dr. Fleishman:**

- Dr. Fleishman sent a message to families recently about a scheduling shift for hybrid families.
- Below, you will find an excerpt from that message that pertains to DLA families.

*We are intensively planning for the expanded in-person time for our K-2 hybrid students on their in-person days. The 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. time will include 30 minutes of lunch and recess followed by an hour of instruction with their classroom teacher. This hour will be in lieu of the hour of live instruction with the classroom teacher currently held on the at-home learning day. As a part of this change, K-2 hybrid students will receive additional time with a special subject teacher on their at-home days.*

*... Some DLA families have asked how this will impact the DLA structure. While our DLA team continues to refine the DLA model, we don't plan to make a similar change to the DLA schedule since the purpose of the change for hybrid students is to increase in-person time. Given that DLA is by definition all remote, we feel that the current schedule works relatively well in balancing screen time for our K-2 students.*

*That being said, we are committed to continuous improvement and will continue to explore how we can improve the experiences for both our DLA and hybrid students. Analysis of the parent/guardian and teacher survey data may help us identify possibilities.*

### **Reminder of Expectations for Student Participation, K-5:**

- All students are expected to attend the morning meeting and participate in all of the teacher-assigned, synchronous and/or asynchronous learning activities on each school day. This includes specialist subject classes: library, art, music, and PE.
- *Consistent absences from or lack of participation in specialist classes will be reflected in the student's mid year and/or end of year progress report.*

### **Creative Arts:**

- ***Women in World Jazz*** webinar-style virtual concerts\* for schools that missed their spring performances. Included during the presentation will be live and pre-recorded performances, and virtual collaborations. Members of the ensemble will share information about the music of the featured composers.
- ***DLA students will attend the performance with their neighborhood school hybrid classmates, unless the classroom teacher has multiple schools represented. In that case, the classroom teacher will decide which performance the class attends.***
- All performances will take place at 9:15 AM:
  - Wednesday, 12/16 - **Grades 3-5** Cabot, Peirce, Underwood, Zervas, Horace Mann
  - Wednesday, 1/13 - **Grades K-2** Angier, Cabot, Underwood, Zervas, Horace Mann
- **Creative Arts & Sciences** enrichment programming is made possible by generous contributions to each school's PTO. Thank you for your support!
- Webinar links will be distributed to students by the school's administration prior to the performance date.

### **DLA Spirit Day-#weareDLA!**

- Our next spirit day will be on Wednesday, December 23rd.
- DLA fifth graders are currently brainstorming ideas and will vote this week on the theme.
- Stay tuned for an announcement soon!

### **Important Dates:**

- **Wednesday, December 23rd:**
  - DLA Spirit Day!
  - Stay tuned for the theme generated and chosen by our DLA 5th graders!
- **December 24th-January 3rd:**
  - December/January Break
- **Tuesday, January 12th: 8:30 to 9:15 am:**
  - Family Coffee, topic TBD