



## Distance Learning Academy News

December 21, 2020

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe but this is the last family newsletter of 2020! This has certainly been a far different year than any of us anticipated going into it at the end of last December. Although there have been and continue to be many hardships and challenges, we also recognize the silver linings of it all. Our teachers have done something unimaginable a year ago; they are educating your children completely online! Their classrooms are connected, students are thriving and learning is happening each and every day. This would not be possible without all of you. The partnership between home and school has always been vital, but it has taken on new meaning during the pandemic. We thank you and our educators for your tireless efforts.

To all of you celebrating Christmas, we wish you a Merry one, and Happy New Year to all!

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

Warmly,

Jen, Jodie, Kristen and Maura



### **General-Education Aides:**

- We are very excited to share that we have hired 12 general-education aides to support students and classroom teachers.
- These new staff members work with students during synchronous and asynchronous learning times. Their schedules are fluid and may change throughout the year.
- We now have our general-education aides working each day in our classrooms, grades 1-5. They facilitate small groups, check in with students during asynchronous work blocks, provide feedback on SeeSaw and Google Classroom assignments and soon will be facilitating social groups.
- Please join us in welcoming them!

### **Snow Days:**

- During inclement weather, please note that Dr. Fleishman may announce a remote learning day OR a traditional snow day.
- This will be clearly articulated on the district website, through a message sent to families and through local media.

### **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, 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.
- Our 5th graders have voted, and the theme will be a movie & pajama party!
- This is optional! Your child(ren) may participate if they feel comfortable doing so.

### **Important Dates:**

- **Wednesday, December 23rd:**
  - DLA Spirit Day!
- **December 24th-January 3rd:**
  - December/January Break
- **Tuesday, January 12th: 8:30 to 9:15 am:**
  - Family Coffee, topic TBA