



Distance Learning Academy News

January 11, 2021

Dear Families,

We hope you had a chance this weekend to decompress and spend some time doing something that brings you joy. We are all still trying to make sense of the events last week. Spending time with our families and getting outside helped us to reflect and process.

Many of the teachers had conversations with students about the events that transpired in our capital last week. One of our fifth-grade teachers used the following as a framework for the discussion and student reflection. We thought it might be helpful for families as well.

Head (information): What information do you have about what happened yesterday? How did you learn this information? What are you wondering?

Heart (emotions): How are you feeling? Are there moments, words, or images that stand out to you?

Conscience (thoughts): What do you think about what happened? What thoughts do you have about our school values and ideas of right and wrong (justice and injustice)? How should people act going forward? Consider your leaders, your community, and your own actions.

Connection is important in our community, and this week, we will host a Family Coffee on Tuesday, January 12th from 8:30-9:15AM. After a brief introduction, we will offer three breakout rooms from which to choose:

- Supporting your student(s) in literacy with Deana Lew, Elementary Literacy Coordinator
- Supporting your student(s) in math with Jen Ortega and Christopher McBride, Elementary Math Coaches
- Supporting your student(s) with attention, stamina and work production with Psychologists Dr. Julie Gold, Dr. Gordon Weiner and Social Worker, Rebecca Young

The Zoom link is below, and we hope you can make it.

Also, as Dr. Fleishman noted in his email on December 22nd, new requirements from the Board of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for live, synchronous instruction (delivered either in-person or remotely) take effect next week. Fortunately, many of the DLA classes are already meeting the new requirements or are close to meeting them. As a result,

our teachers are in the process of evaluating their classroom schedules and tweaking them if needed. Some possible shifts might be:

- Both cohorts live from 2:00 to 3:00 with an educator
- Combined cohorts for a specific subject(s) in the morning
- Added block with a specialist teacher and/or a general-education assistant

Your child's classroom teacher will communicate any schedule changes to you this week, and they will be fully implemented beginning January 19th.

Please also find some important information and updates below, and thank you again for your support.

Warmly,
Jen, Jodie, Kristen and Maura

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.*

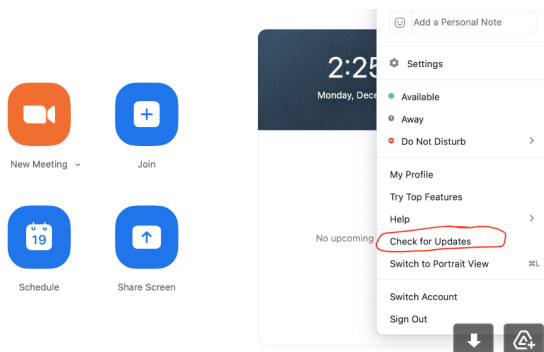
Creative Arts:

- *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.*
- *The last performance in this series 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.*

Important Dates:

- **Week of January 12th**-Material distribution at homeschools
- **Tuesday, January 12th: 8:30 to 9:15 am:**

Family Coffee (PW-Joinme)- Supporting Students in Literacy, Math and Attention/Stamina and Work Production- **Please update your Zoom account, so you have the latest features, including the ability to CHOOSE a breakout room!**



- **Monday, January 18th**-No School in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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