



Distance Learning Academy News

January 19, 2021

Dear Families,

We hope you had a restful long weekend!

Schedule Adjustments: As a reminder, the schedule tweaks discussed in last week's update take effect today. We appreciate all of our educators' hard work as they thoughtfully reviewed their schedules and made any necessary changes for today's implementation.

MLK Observation: This week will also bring important conversations about Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, along with our democracy's transfer of power. We will take these opportunities to discuss race, equity, justice, and democracy in age appropriate ways. Although these events bring these conversations to the forefront, we strive to embed these important conversations into all of our work and modeling as educators.

Inauguration: For families who would like some resources for this week's Inauguration, please see suggestions from Alan Ripp, our Coordinator of History & Social Sciences (K-8) and Jesse Krotick, our Coordinator of Elementary Support and Stabilization below. We will **not** be livestreaming this in class, but if you would like to have your child watch, please feel free to have him/her/them log off of Zoom at 12:00; just let your child's classroom teacher know.

Connectedness Survey, Grades 3-5: This week and next, teachers across the district in grades 3-8 will administer the Connectedness Survey to students. As Dr. Fleishman noted in his family letter on January 13th, a sense of belonging is an important component of students' success in school. As a district, we are continuously working to be sure students feel safe, supported and connected. This tool is one way for us to reflect on the work we have done, as well as the work we continue to do. The survey is confidential but student identification numbers are collected, so the data can be analyzed by subgroups. The survey will take 15-20 minutes to complete, and our teachers in grades 3-5 will administer it during class time between now and January 29th.

Family Coffee Feedback: Last, but not least, we would like to thank all of our families who were able to participate in our Family Coffee last week. We received wonderful feedback and many requests to hold it again! We also would like to thank Dr. Julie Gold, Dr. Gordon Weiner, Deana Lew, Christopher McBride and Jen Ortega for facilitating our breakout rooms.

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.*

Family Forum:

- Dr. Fleishman invites you to a Zoom Webinar for *Supporting your Child in the 2020-2021 School Year*.
- Please [join this link](#) (PW=788595) tomorrow evening, January 20th from 7:30-8:30PM.

Inauguration Resources:

For adults:

- Bill of Rights Institute: Peaceful Transitions
<https://billofrightsinitiative.org/playlists/peacefultransitions>
- Generation Citizen: Teacher Resource Guide
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18fglgjgBBekoqzmz5R78Z270iZFsYtNQWrVqgYLDcXjM/edit?ts=5ff87c67>
- National Constitution Center: Nothing less than a miracle: The Constitutional transition of power
<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/nothing-less-than-a-miracle-the-constitution-and-the-peaceful-transition-of>

For students: (Families can sign-in with access codes on their school's library site)

- PebbleGo Next: Electoral College
<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/11/categories/8853/articles/11333>
- Understanding Check and Balance
<https://site.pebblego.com/modules/11/categories/8854/articles/8782>

For adults around discussing difficult topics:

<https://www.apa.org/topics/talking-children>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/blog/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-difficult-subjects>

Important Dates:

- **Wednesday, January 20th-[Family Forum 7:30-8:30PM](#)**
- **Wednesday, February 10th-** Progress Reports are sent to Families
- **Monday, 2/15-Friday, 2/19-**February Vacation

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