

Date: March 16, 2020

Dear First Grade families,

Per the communication sent by Dr. Vogel, and further communications from Governor Lamont, we have closed school through March 31 at the earliest. I realize that this situation may take a little time to get used to, but if we work together, I am sure that we can succeed in providing continuing education for your child during this time. This letter provides you with the information that you need to ensure that your child is able to have access to the first grade lessons and learning activities during this time as part of our distance learning program.

Overview

For the Grade 1 classroom, teaching and learning will take place using a variety of learning tools as follows:

- Computer platform: Google doc and Seesaw
- Hard copies of learning materials: folders were sent home on 3/13
- Online learning support: Khan Academy, Seesaw, Xtramath, Lexia, RazKids, Mystery Science, Scholastic
- Sketchbooks are on order and you will be notified when and how to get these.

A daily schedule for lessons and assignments has been created. While there will be no live-streaming of instruction; on some days, there may be recorded videos that your children will watch to complete the planned lessons. On other days, there will be written instructions regarding learning tasks to be completed, or assignments to be completed using one of our online tools. The schedule that has been provided (below) is meant to organize your child’s time by topic and allocates time for “in-class” practice of the video instruction. Teachers will be available via email to discuss any questions that your child may have about the lessons during school hours. Your child will be expected to complete the work as assigned each day and then submit it according to the instructions noted in the “How to Submit Work” portion of this letter. Work submitted each day will be reviewed and feedback will be provided to students via Google Doc and Seesaw.

It is important that students complete the work as assigned to ensure continuity of their learning throughout this period. Though no formal assessments are planned for the coming weeks, it is anticipated that students will be assessed on this content when back at school.

School Day and Schedule

We will try to replicate the experience of a regular school day in a way that is most practical for all of us. It is important for you to think of each day as if your child is boarding the bus and coming to school. Toward that end, the school day and schedule will be as follows:

School day: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Content Area	Link to content area assignments from google doc “Welcome to first grade’s online classroom” https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BP4Q9s0K082Wd09uqTWxFLsZiOZ7q7pUcowpNK8hE2Y/edit?usp=sharing
Reading	(approx. 60 minutes daily)
Writing	(approx. 30 minutes daily)
Word work	(approx. 20 minutes daily)

Math	(approx. 45 minutes daily)
Science/Social Studies	(approx. 30 minutes every other day)
Assignments for all special subjects are below	
Spanish	Approximately 30 minutes, once a week Please view and submit assigned work via SeeSaw and links in email
Art	35 minutes, 2x per week Please view and submit assigned work via SeeSaw If you are having technical difficulties with SeeSaw, please email me at lbarnett@sharoncenterschool.org or text me 860-309-8226
Music	Approximately 60 minutes a week total (on any day or split up among several days) Assignments can be found on Seesaw. Please submit work as assigned.
PE	Approximately 70 minutes a week total (split between any 2 days of the week). See the links below for choice activities and log. Logs will be due each Friday by 8pm. P.E. Choice List P.E. Activity Log
Computer	Approximately 60 minutes a week of Lexia Core 5 reading. This should be in 30 minute blocks. Directions for using Lexia at home can be found on my web page . Approximately 60 minutes a week of class time in two sessions. Activities will be posted on my webpage .
Library	30 minutes during the week. Choose a time that works for you and your family! I will be posting weekly on Sunday nights. https://www.sharoncenterschool.org/classes/75146/ek8_library_mrs_pace/ek8_library_mrs_pace

Access to Learning Materials

As stated earlier, Grade 1 will be using the Google doc “Welcome to first grade’s online classroom” for instruction and posting assignments. We will also be using seesaw for instruction and the posting of assignments.

Submission of Work

All assigned work should be submitted by 8:00pm on each school day so that teachers can review the work and provide timely feedback to your children. Work to be submitted will be marked “Please submit” on the assignment list. Pictures of student’s work sent to me via Seesaw or my school email (kducey@sharoncenterschool.org) are acceptable. All other assignments are trackable by the teacher online or can be handed in when school reopens.

Technology Support

If students are experiencing technical problems, they should contact the teacher, who will either troubleshoot or refer the issue to our IT department. If students are unable to contact the teacher, they should contact the school at 860-364-5153.

Student Absences

For Sharon Center School, should your child be ill or absent on any day during this period, please contact the school nurse at 860-364-0197 or email her at dsheehan@sharoncenterschool.org as you would on a normal school day. Tracking of illnesses and symptoms remains very important in guiding our school community in its decisions for the health and well being of all. The school nurse will record all absences and let me know not to expect work from your child on that day. Your child will be held responsible for completing any missed lessons and corresponding work. Please contact me so that we can coordinate a plan for making up work that makes sense for your child.

I realize that this arrangement is challenging at best and that there will be many questions and concerns on your part. Please contact me when you need my assistance with anything during the next two weeks. I will make every effort to be as accessible as I have always been to your students and to you. This is an unexpected and unusual situation. If we are united in our efforts, we can make the best of this arrangement and model some collaborative problem solving for the children.

Thank you in advance for your help and support during the weeks ahead. We can do this!

Sincerely,

Karen Ducey