

REMS Community Zoom Meeting
Hosted by the Parent Crew Board
Wednesday, April 8th, 2020

Main Topic: Challenges of remote learning

Feedback:

- Tiffany reviewed the district's remote learning plan and how people felt about it.
 - How do people feel about the four hours?
 - The writing piece seems to be the most challenging
 - Are there things that they really have to be doing?
 - Parents are focusing on the pieces that actually are connecting their child/student to others.
 - The feeling is that the district gave some leeway about how much the parents need to engage.
- Some parents are feeling pressure to do more and have challenging expectations about what they can accomplish within the remote learning day.
- Our Social Worker, Allison, posted about Hurricane Katrina kids and how they didn't lose their academic skills when they missed a portion of the school year. Let's re-post this as it is the message we want to communicate as a school.
- Some families are focusing on just two subjects per day.
- Some families are using sticky notes to create categories where students can direct their own school day.
 - One section is "Backlog" where all the sticky notes are kept
 - To-Do section are the daily tasks
 - Done section
- Parents shared some brainfiller activities that can be found on typingrush.com and BrainPop.com
- Some teachers have been asking parents and students what their expectations are from them. Parents and students thought it felt good to be able to give feedback.
- Overall, parents are feeling supported by the teachers
- The teachers have engaged students in ways that sends the message that the teachers are still in charge, leaves no ambiguity.
- Some students are feeling behind-how do we support students still struggling?

Feedback from teachers/Issues that teachers are dealing with:

- What will next year be like in terms of teachers feeling like they have to make up for lost time?
 - Teachers already meet students where they're at each year regardless
 - Since this is coming at the end of the year students are not missing out on a lot of academics that will be needed to move them forward (as compared to other times of the year)

- Our students are now engaged in a different kind of learning, a lot of thinking and resilience.
- The main messages from teachers:
 - We've got this! It's going to be okay, our students are resilient and these are skills that REMS already values.
 - There is a lot of opportunity for out-of-the-box thinking
 - Teachers are thrilled that technology has allowed them to keep the relationships and connections
 - Teachers are NOT judging how much work is actually getting done.
 - Everyone is trying to keep everyone happy and healthy
- What can we do to share this data about the grace that we all need?
 - We need to be clear about expectations to allow for parents to just do what they can and not feel bad if they can't meet every assignment
 - Send out Crew Parent emails to reiterate this message
 - Teachers can send out reminders about the weekly Zoom meetings and the Facebook Resource page that's located on the Parent Crew Board website.
- There is NO starting line and finish line with our current remote learning reality
- Our teachers differentiate naturally, so they will continue to do this next year
- This is not home school or even regular remote learning ... this is "crisis learning."
- Make sure these messages are reiterated by teachers regularly
- How are our teachers doing in all of this?
 - Teachers are experiencing the wide range of emotions that we all are.
 - Deborah is encouraging teachers to keep it simple for their students and themselves
 - Deborah is trying to mitigate the extra stress.
 - Teachers are trying to avoid comparisons
 - Teachers are coming up with realistic expectations
 - The most important outcome for all of us is to **just stay connected**.
 - Overall, Deborah feels like the teachers are doing really well.
 - It has definitely been more work than anticipated
- We are Deborah is leading by example and is expressing to the teachers the need for teacher autonomy
- Deborah is seeing some panicking by some parents in the community, but these parents are still supportive of our teachers
- Teachers have been encouraged to plan for the least independent student in the classroom so all students may be empowered and successful

Upcoming Ideas and Issues to Navigate:

- We'll continue with the weekly Wednesday night Zoom meetings
- We are starting a spreadsheet to add resources to so parents can still take advantage of what others are doing

- Can we get teachers to send the information of the Zoom meetings and the gathered resources out in their emails so we can reach more parents?
- Possible future Zoom meeting topics:
 - How are parents meeting their kids' social needs?
 - How are people meeting their own personal needs?
 - What are the benefits of remote learning? How have we progressed?
 - How are we supporting the community? Community care? (This may lend itself well to a social media post to gather more ideas)

Future REMS Community Zoom Meetings:

- We'd like to continue these community Zoom meetings
 - Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 15th, at 8:00pm
 - Next meeting topic: Meeting our kids' social needs and meeting our own personal needs

“We are crew, not passengers, strengthened by acts of consequential service to others.”

-Kurt Hahn

