

March 15th, 2020, 6:05 PM

Dear MYIS Community,

This week is our first experience with Distant Learning as an entire school. It will be a time for patience and transparent communication as we work together to provide the best learning experience for our students that we can. Our decision to close school for the week was one that was not made lightly and one that we ask to be approached in a collaborative manner.

### **Social Distancing:**

We understand the implications school closure will have on families and have created guidelines for our Distance Learning Program that provide as much flexibility for you as possible. All updates and understandings of the CoVID-19 virus currently point to "social distancing" as the most effective strategy in preventing the spread of the virus. For this reason, we encourage families to minimise opportunities for children to engage in social situations with their peers and remain in self-quarantine as much as possible. This will not only help reduce the risk to our community but also hopefully allow our school campus to reopen as soon as possible, in accordance with the government directives.

### **MYIS Distance Learning Program:**

#### *Daily attendance procedure is as follows:*

1. 8am: The headteacher will post a short morning message and greeting video on Seesaw that includes a task or question that the student needs to respond to.
  2. The children open Seesaw, listen to the video and then must post a response back to the teacher.
  3. Teachers take attendance based on the responses by 8.45 am. Students who have not posted their response by 8.30 will be marked as absent.
- We expect all students to actively engage with the tasks provided as these tasks replace the regular day's learning. Tasks should be completed and shared with headteachers within 24 hours.
  - Attendance and participation, is a vital part of distance learning, as we need to maintain accurate records, so please help ensure your child is able to complete this.
  - The learning will be shared at 8 AM a through Seesaw. The specific types of learning shared will look different across the elementary school, as teachers will share what is developmentally appropriate.
  - Parents are expected to understand procedures and support their child's access to SeeSaw and Zoom.

### **What will learning look like?**

- A schedule of learning tasks will be shared by your child's headteacher each day. There will be a balance of activities from across the curriculum, and students should aim to complete them to the best of their ability within 24 hours.
- Students can write comments and post photos, videos or audio messages to share their learning on Seesaw, and teachers will respond with feedback throughout the day.
- Our Early Years students will need adult support to complete the learning tasks.
- Parents should message teachers between 8:00 am - 4:00 pm through SeeSaw announcements or email. Please understand that teachers will respond as soon as possible, within a two hour period is reasonable, as teachers will also be meeting, preparing, reading student responses, etc

### **Zoom Conference Calls:**

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- Zoom will be accessed via the link sent directly to parents from the Homeroom teacher. During this meeting time, students can discuss their learning and connect with their peers and their teacher. This is an important aspect of our online learning.
- Students will be provided with time by headteachers to Zoom conference with their class EVERY day. This online lesson will take 15-40 minutes.

In order to meet child safeguarding requirements:

- Parents should ensure that students are fully dressed in time for their schedule Zoom start time. Students should be fully dressed and wearing comfortable clothes such as shorts and a T-shirt,
- The device being used for the Zoom call should be placed so that a student can be seen ONLY from the waist up.
- Zoom sessions will only occur with a minimum of 3 participants.

## **Communication:**

Communication is so important to enable success for our students. Please be in regular contact with your head and co teachers! If you have any concerns or worries relating to the work your children are set, please reach out and speak to them. Empathy, understanding and flexibility are vital! We are all trying our best for the good of our community. Teachers are working hard, and for extended hours, in order to offer their Distance Learning Programs. Mistakes will happen and we are grateful to everyone for your patience and flexibility.

We will be sending an update of the latest information tomorrow but until then please enjoy this unique opportunity to engage with your student/s in their learning journey!

With warm regards,



Ms. Melanie Taylor

*Assistant Principal*

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