Dear Parents,

On April 6th, we began our **Continuity of Learning** at Crescent Park.

Our teachers have been hard at work planning. They have made or have tried to make contact with all parents, either by phone or by e-mail. They have taken into account your preferences and student needs in their planning. If you find that your needs change or if you are having difficulties with either the technology or the work, **please get in touch with your child’s teacher.**

**We depend on your feedback to help things work out.**

All of our teachers are used to working with a certain amount of technology to enhance student learning. But for many, the planning week was a challenge, both to learn new platforms and to ready on-line learning for those who have requested it. We have never used technology to the extent we are now. It will be a new chapter in learning. It will be a new learning journey. And we will continue to learn.

It is a journey that we are taking together- teacher, student, parent and administrator – will need to work **together.** We are open to feedback. In fact, we **need** your feedback. Please let us know – what is working and what is not working for your child and for yourselves. Learning should be enjoyable. That means for parents too.

We are all working under some level of duress. We know that everyone’s situation is unique:

* Some parents may be on the essential services list and be working outside the home. It is hard to work and then help your child at home.
* Others may be self-isolating at home with their children.
* Some face issues with new or older technology.
* Some parents may be comfortable with helping their child learn but some may not, or some subjects may be harder than others.
* We are all in self-isolation of one form or another and that is stressful.

It is emotionally difficult for all of us. We want to be able to support you and help with your child’s learning. The well-being of our students and their families is important to us.

We are coping with a way of life no one would have thought possible a month ago. We need to take care of ourselves and our families. Teachers are concerned for their students’ well-being but are also trying to be mindful that parents have a lot on their plate also. Teachers do need to stay with the District’s guidelines and help students make progress. The learning will not be a full school day. Students do not have interaction time built in to their lesson’s as they would normally.

**Our aim is to provide continuity of learning**. What does that mean?

Continuity means that the learning continues, even though the setting and conditions are different.

We will be using programs students already know – Mathletics, Epic, Reflex or Razkids – so that students have some consistency in their learning. However, we are not in the classroom. Therefore teachers will be finding ways that work to check in with the students (and with you) to assure the learning is happening.

**We are concerned with equity.**

If some families have opted not to use on-line learning, we want the students’ learning to be as consistent with the others as possible. Teachers will build learning that is equitable although it may look different. If there is no or no reliable technology or internet in the home, or if there are a number of children in the home using the technology, teachers can make a paper package available. Parents can then pick up the package on Mondays outside the main entrance in the teacher bins. Completed packages can be dropped off in the same manner.

**What about grades ?**

Originally, the Ministry of Education said that there would be only formative feedback as assessment.

This has now been revised. Intermediate students will receive a letter grade in the following subjects during this term:

* Literacy/ English Language Arts
* Numeracy/ Mathematics
* Socials
* Science

The other subjects (Careers, Physical Education/Health, Visual Arts, ADST, French) will have a comment about how the student engaged with the work.

Primary students in primary project classrooms will receive a continuum grade (not yet meeting/developing/meeting/exceeding) for Literacy and Numeracy.

All subjects will have a final cumulative grade on the last term report card.

We realize that parents may not be used to working through lessons with their children. Your children are not used to doing this sort of learning at home. It is important that student learning does not become too stressful for parents or students. We have attempted to work together within the school so that there is not a lot of conflict for siblings, that is that online lessons do not occur at the same time. If this is a problem, please let us know.

In order for this learning journey to be successful, as stated above, we need to work together. **Please stay in contact with your child’s teacher.** Since this is all new, teachers may be adjusting their plans, as they get feedback about what is working. Please be patient as we work to find the best way to deliver learning to each student.

If you have not yet picked up your child’s belongings and would like to, please give our office a call and we will arrange a time for pick up. There will be a table outside the main door and student belongings will be bagged and labeled with their name. We expect that parents will social distance while picking up belongings.

Report Cards may have gone with your child’s belongings or paper work package. The remaining report cards will be mailed out this week.

I am thankful for our wonderful school community. Please know that we are missing the students. As I see the first returning work coming in from students, I look forward to the new adventures in learning we will have in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Percy

Principal,

F.A.Q.’s

What can I expect?

1. **Lessons/ Learning Plan for the week**

Every Monday, beginning on April 6th, teachers will be sending out their week of lessons. Some teachers may send out daily lessons.

On-line:

If you have arranged for on-line learning. You will likely receive an e-mail from the teacher with the links, plan and passcodes needed.

Paper:

If you have opted for a paper delivery, they will be available on Monday outside the main entrance from 9:30 a.m. on. You will need to come and pick them up.

There will be yellow bins with your child’s teacher’s name on it. The package will be labelled with your child’s name.

**2. Contact with the teacher**

Contact between the teacher and student may be through Zoom, Microsoft Teams or other means. Each teacher has decided on what would be best for their students according the information provided by the parents.

Teachers will be in contact with you on a basis that works for both of you.

**3. Feedback**

As per District 59 guidelines, teachers will be giving formative feedback but also assessing for the last term grade as outlined above. They will be helping students improve through pointing out what they need to work on.

Please give the teacher feedback on how things are working (or not working) for your student(s).

**4. Amount of Work Time for Students**

District 59 has determined the following about of time for student work

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Daily | Weekly |
| Kindergarten/Grade 1 | 1.5 – 2 hours | 7.5 – 10 hours |
| Grades 2 – 6 | 2 – 2.5 hours | 10 – 12.5 hours |
| Grades 7 – 9 | 2.5 – 3 hours | 12.5 – 15 hours |
| Grades 10 – 12 | 3 – 3.5 hours  (approx. 50 mins per course) | 15 – 17.5 hours |

This time would be broken down between subjects at an age and grade appropriate amount of time.

This does not constitute a full day. In a regular school day, students would be working cooperatively on projects or lesson work, collaborating at centres or engaged in dramatic play (for primary) or small or large group discussion. This time **can not** be scheduled or replicated under the current conditions.

Teachers will send out the correct amount of work based on these guidelines.

**Parent Involvement**

We appreciate that all parents want the best for their students. We are thankful that you are supporting your students during this time.

As we are beginning, students my need your help with technology to get started. They know some of the programs – Mathletics, Reflex, Razkids or Epic – but some may be new. There may be other ways you can help your student – please check with the teacher for practical ways to help your student. Your interaction with your student is meant as a support.

Students need to engage with their own work. They will make mistakes. When they make mistakes, the teacher will give them feedback so they can improve. It is important that parents **do not edit** student work. Student progress has to be their own.