

March 17, 2020

Information about ongoing access to student learning opportunities for Wayland Middle School families

Even though the next three weeks do not count as typical school days, we will still provide ongoing access to learning opportunities for students. Despite the fact that these opportunities are not mandatory for students to complete, **we recognize the vital importance of continuing to learn, think, and create when it comes to maintaining social emotional health.**

Especially during a time that feels so strange, uncertain, and even scary, we want our students to find security and well-being through staying connected with their teachers and continuing their learning.

At the middle school, teachers are creating enrichment and review activities that are connected to their subjects. Teachers are planning for about 30 minutes of daily enrichment per class (about 3.5 hours per day). Most learning opportunities will occur asynchronously -- that is, students and teachers will not be "meeting" together at a particular time. There may be online tasks, work done on paper, and outdoor options for various classes. Students will be encouraged to check their email and google classroom accounts by 9:00 AM each day to get a feel for their learning activities for the day. This will allow students to organize their days in ways that work best for them and meet their families' needs (such as caring for younger siblings). We will send a sample schedule for how a student's day could look. We will also offer a schedule of when teachers will be available to answer questions - "virtual office hours." We will offer a weekly Wednesday TAG-like time for homerooms to check in and share how they are doing. Teachers will send invitations as to how to meet for this Wednesday check-in.

Special education liaisons will stay in contact with their students during this time to support their learning and emotional health. Administrators will work with staff to identify students of concern and establish strategies for staying connected with them. As always guidance counselors and administrators are available to you and your children, so please feel free to reach out to us if you have any concerns, questions or need for support.