

TPS FAMILY UPDATE -- New Information on Virtual Learning & Sheltering in Place
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Dear TPS Families,

Yesterday I was asked to submit our learning goals for this window of time. This is a hard question, especially because it wasn't long ago that our goals for your children and our team could be based on deep and meaningful experiences that we would share in our classrooms and our community. Much of the world as we know it has changed to what is our new, current, and hopefully temporary "normal" in a very short period of time.

These are the learning goals that I established for TPS for this "window of time":

- 1) To support children and families in dealing with this crisis. Recognizing that the impact on Adverse Childhood Experiences during this process has tremendous potential and that we, as schools and leaders, MUST prioritize emotional health and safety for all of our families.
- 2) To provide learning opportunities that truly engage children, while allowing a myriad of responses, acknowledging student and family assets, and attempting to diminish the impact of challenges that we all face.
- 3) To make things better, not worse, for our families and our TPS team. Having kids spend hours on meaningless and redundant tasks, creating frustration for parents who now find themselves the teachers, and expecting more than is reasonable will only do harm to the relationships that we work so hard to develop over time. We have to give grace. We just must.
- 4) I hope that all kids get to read for pleasure. Read for pleasure. Read for pleasure. Read for pleasure!

There is so much more that I could have said. There is so much more that I know you all can and will do. And there is much to be said for giving each other and ourselves some grace.

On Thursday 3/26 we have an amazing TPS team coming to organize the food service and technology that our families need for this next window of time. Pick up for both of these will be on Monday 3/30. We will send a detailed email with the pick-up plan to families who need this information.

Remember that next week (3/30-4/3) you have a week of "extended spring break" through the waiver days granted by the Governor of Indiana. Our staff will spend next week creating plans that work toward the above goals, with a focus on reading, writing, math, the arts, and passion, that are manageable for at home learning. We will also provide you with some optional learning opportunities next week should you want to dig in early!

On 4/6, you will receive your plan for your first week of Virtual Learning. We have made the decision to do three days/week of Virtual Learning during this time away, using additional waiver days for the other two. This will allow families to spread the required experiences out over more time, should you choose to, or will provide some days off in between the "school days" if that makes more sense for your family's situation. With the plans provided, you will receive details of how you can reach teachers and other staff who will be available to support your child's learning. You will learn how to be marked "present" for school, and what to do if you have technical issues. You will be reassured that it will all be okay.

I'm grateful that we are all in this together. We continue to be ready to do the next right thing for all in our community.

With hope,
Ms. Cathy, School Leader

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