

Dear Glencoe Families,

We just finished our second official week of distance learning in PPS. It does seem much longer than that since we have been away from school for five weeks, two of which were considered our extended Spring Break. Hopefully, you and your children are establishing some kind of routine during the week that allows adequate time for work and play. Some of the teachers held parent meetings and/or heard from some of you through email about what is working and what remains to be a challenge. What I can tell you, is no matter how you are feeling, you are not alone. As I have mentioned in previous emails, we are all dealing with different work and home situations so our approaches to distance learning may be different. You just need to find what works best for you and your child(ren). Here are a few things families have found helpful:

- **Continue to follow a morning routine.** Set an alarm and have a morning routine for breakfast, grooming, dressing and “starting” school.
- **Write (or print) out the activities for the day** for you and your child to use as a reference. Students can cross off an activity once it is completed. That can be satisfying and the list doesn’t seem endless.
- **Have boundaries but offer choice.** The list of learning activities can be done in whatever order makes sense for them. They can choose what they want to do first, next, last. Sometimes numbering the activities before getting started helps students have a sense of control. Maybe your child just wants to do reading one day. That is fine, they can do a couple days of reading assignments. Just help them understand that the other day(s) will then be for math or writing.
- **Establish a place where they “go to school”.** It might be at the kitchen table, in a spare room or in a comfy corner in the house. Wherever they can focus and work.
- **If your child has a difficult time focusing on a task,** chunk the task into smaller parts. For example, if they have a writing task, you may want to use an “if/then” strategy. “IF YOU write # of sentences (or a paragraph), THEN you can take a 10 minute break.” You can then make adjustments, increasing the length of work time before break as the week(s) progress.
- **Social time is important.** As much as your child is willing, have him/her join the weekly class meeting(s). Connecting with peers and the teacher helps with some of that feeling of isolation. If it works for your family, exchange phone numbers or emails to arrange some additional time to connect.

Don’t forget, you can find learning activities from our Specialists (music, pe, library and counseling) on our Glencoe Website. There are some great ideas and activities - check them out! There is also an art contest, [“Beloved Bike to Books Design Contest”](#) hosted by PBOT and Multnomah County Library. Does your child love to color, draw, create? No matter what they grade, they can submit a design for bike lane art on one of Portland’s streets.

Last but not least, Mrs. Gardner and I joined as many class meetings as we could to participate in Pajama Day and take some pictures. We will be compiling all of the snapshots from the week into a brief slide show for everyone to enjoy. You can expect to see that sometime next week.

Best,

Lori Clark
Glencoe Principal