

Teacher Write-Ups May 19, 2020

Class 1-2

We are really in a groove now with distance learning. Our team of myself, Ms. Adams and Ms. Becca have settled on systems that work. Some students are more engaged than others but all are doing something. We are in communication with families to varied degrees depending how they choose to engage. We have customized the work as much as possible and are meeting with the class daily on Zoom at 11am for about 45 minutes. Two days are Math, two are Language Arts and Friday is Science or Social Studies focussed. Thirteen students continue with our "Blended Learning" version of the curriculum and we have seen them all on Zoom, with about ten attending daily. The other three have chosen the "Paper Only" version and continue to learn at home with packets we provide. The packets for both versions come out every two weeks and parents return and pick up work every other Monday. We only have one round left!

Three of our students are working with Ginny, the Reading Specialist, on Zoom twice a week. Tiny Eye Speech services continue for four students and one of our English Language Learners meets with Ms. Huerta for support on Zoom daily.

One highlight this month was the Virtual Variety Show. Seventeen students from all the classes recorded and submitted videos. Ms. Adams worked with three students from the Jr. High who were MCs and created one video of all the clips. The show was presented on Zoom to our school community. Perhaps you were able to see it! We had two showings and around 75 people watched in all. Another highlight is the art projects Ms. Becca has been creating for the students and sending home in packets. She has created "how-to" videos to walk them through making the projects and the videos are posted on our TRCS Grades 1 & 2 YouTube Channel.

Last week Mrs. Kasperson and I finalized and ordered the yearbook. We sold 75 books which is the typical number. It will be here by the last week of school. Ms. Sofie and Ms. Adams were a huge help in pulling off the yearbook this year. As year end approaches we have also ordered award pins for the kids which normally would be given at the End-of-Year Dinner. Each class will also give out a Reach Award to one student. We plan to record a video with teachers sharing why they gave each pin and share it with families. Staff is also working to put together a Virtual Art Show with work from all our students that they can view digitally from home.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank You!

Kim

Class 3-4

We have daily live teaching at 10:00 via Zoom. Our Zooms have been very well attended and productive. We use this time primarily for math review or instruction, but sometimes other subjects are addressed.

In recent weeks, we taught students how to access and use Google Hangouts to encourage social connection with one another. Some of the students really like connecting with one another using this method.

Half of the students remain very steady and consistent in their daily work which includes spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing prompts, math skills, math review worksheets, reading *The One and Only Ivan*, discussion posts, and social studies/science videos with written summaries of what they learned from the video content. Another 1/4 of the students come and go, participate inconsistently, but do some of the assignments. Three students are not participating at all. We've had science projects including building a solar oven that they construct independently. The optional painting parties are popular with a few of the students. I also have a large list of links in Google Classroom for educational videos and science experiments using common home items from which students may choose. Many of the students really enjoy accessing these optional activities.

Over the next 3 weeks, I will be conducting a spiral review of math and ELA concepts covered this school year. I will also be assessing what math knowledge they've retained using Kahoot. With the analytics from the Kahoot games, I can see how well they've retained math concepts and see what concepts need to be reviewed or practiced. For example, in the last Kahoot played, it was apparent we needed to review equivalent fractions. The Kahoot results from these next games will help us teachers plan for future instruction whenever the next year begins.

Class 5-6

Good afternoon, Board Members. I promise, no novel this time.

Since last month, distance learning has evened out a bit. Math continues to be the strong point of the day for all of us.

We survived the Revolutionary War, and are moving into Westward Expansion. I have Lewis and Clark waiting in the wings while I try to invent a way to make all of this history stuff manageable without the appropriate distance learning materials. What are the appropriate materials? I have no idea. I'm just making it up as I go along.

The good news is, the kids are enjoying most of what we are doing. Last week, I had them all build blanket forts and then take pictures and write a rental advertisement for their "apartments." They also wrote persuasive letters to their parents asking for a giraffe, platypus, or some other odd animal for a pet. This week we are going to play with solar oven designs. We'll have a bake-off competition when the sun comes back.

I'm honestly impressed with how many of my kids are hanging in there with distance learning. I have 19 attending daily, four part-timers, one non-tech independent study kid, and three who do not participate. That's actually an improvement from last month, and we have less than a month to go.

Be safe. Be well.
Linda Tulley

Class 7

Hello board

I hope everyone is well. The students are counting down the days until the last day of school. They are very excited to have summer break.

The 7th graders took their last math test, and they all did well. I am very proud of how far they have come this year.

In English they just have one more paper and presentation to do and they are finished as well.

I am already thinking about next year and how I can do things better, especially if I have to continue with long distance learning. I am hoping that the 7th graders can give me pointers on how to make zoom more engaging for them.

Have a great week.

Best
Dani

Class 8

Junior High Board Report

At this point the hard work of the 8th graders is starting to dwindle a bit. While about half of them continue to turn in homework the other half are no longer turning in work. Parents are reporting to me that the biggest problem is the kids addiction to video gaming and the struggles they are having getting their kids to honor their requests to get off the games. The kids are apparently telling the parents that they are doing homework, but in reality they are gaming. In talking with the students they are pretty open with me and admitting that they find it hard during this stay-at-home order to not get caught up in doing things around the house, which also includes helping out but does include a lot of their hobbies.

On a positive note we are knee deep in planning the 8th grade graduation ceremony which we are hoping to do on Zoom. We are on our last unit in the math book and on pace to finish everything in both math and English. I do still have about half the 8th graders working hard and turning in work every day so that is wonderful. And, Ms. Natalie and I have successfully held two painting parties for the students in grades 3-8 with about 12 kids participating from across the classrooms. We are teaching them how to do acrylic paintings of sunsets. We are pleased to discover that we are able to do this really well across the Zoom platform and the kids have been very excited to have something like this to look forward to. They also reported loving the talent show and some of them are looking forward to entering into our virtual art show that is next on the planning board.

Now, it is time for me to get back to Google classroom and Zoom for the day. Let me know if you have any questions.

Kathleen