

Teacher Write-Ups June 16, 2020

Grades 1-2

Hello TRCS Board,

Well, we did it. What a year. These last couple weeks have included wrapping up our distance learning endeavors with grades 1 & 2. In the end, we had great participation in daily Zoom lessons from 12 of the 17 students. Two students continued with the "paper only" version of the program and the remaining three showed up occasionally on zoom. We also had bi-weekly packets of work with a wide spectrum of amounts completed and returned. We had some families that completed and returned it all, some that returned hardly any, and everything in between.

Since we did not have the annual Awards Dinner this year, the staff recorded an awards ceremony together over Zoom. We shared the video via YouTube with the school community. Students responded positively, enjoyed watching it and have been picking up their award pins at school. This week families are coming to pick up pins, yearbooks and other items and return TRCS Chromebooks. Mrs. Adams and I are finishing up the Narrative Report Cards for the second semester. With Ms. Becca's support as well, we are cleaning up and cleaning out the classroom. We'll see what next year brings!

Thanks for your service,

Kim

Grades 3-4

Distance learning was robust during SIP for grades 3-4, yet relied on students embracing it, and parents setting boundaries around it, for it to succeed. As you can imagine, we witnessed a spectrum of rates of acceptance and success. I learned so much more about my students and families in both their respective responses, and in my time with the students on Zoom and Hangouts.

The feedback I received from families underscores the importance of working closely with parents to weave a safety net of support for the students to get the most from their education. This was true before SIP, but is even more critical in the new model. Luckily, as grades 3 and 4 already are comfortable working with technology and familiar/comfortable with specific academics being delivered via apps, no teaching/learning time was lost in the switch to distance learning.

I'm already thinking about next year, as I finish up this year. To increase asynchronistic resources for all my students next year, I am following Ms. Adams' lead and creating a YouTube channel. Among the first recordings I will install will be the multiplication songs I used for teaching this year. The multiplication tunes, as we call them, were extremely successful for

memorizing the multiplication facts for this year's group. Mr. Kimmelman has come in twice to play the piano while I croak out the tunes, recording it all on my phone. It's not pretty, but I'm hoping the songs will help next year's students as effectively as it did this year's students, accessible on the soon-to-be You Tube channel. I will also upload art tutorials from myself and other art teachers for easy access to our distance learners.

Meanwhile, we are entering grades, writing up progress narrative report cards, receiving returned chrome books, chargers, and novels, and so on.

I feel extremely fortunate to have Ms. Huerta coming in to replace Ms. V for next year. (Giant sigh of relief goes here.) We have already begun discussions regarding tasks, flow, management, and so on.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time to help our school. It really does take the whole village. I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Natalie

Grades 5-6

Dear Board Members,

Well, we made it! All the way to June 5 and beyond. I have to tell you, I felt a little cruel that last week. Normally, the last week of school is filled with projects, a class field trip, a school field trip, and taking down the room. None of that was possible this year, so I had the kids doing math all the way up to Thursday! But these kids are troopers. Most of them stayed with me to the bitter end, and were rewarded with cookies if they dropped off their computers on Friday. (Don't worry, there are cookies for the kids who drop off this week too.)

It's nice to know that most of us are more resilient than we expect, more flexible than we thought we'd ever need to be. And that's a good thing, because this next year is going to require more (and more) of the same.

Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas. We're all in this together, and the staff will be looking for input from all.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement as we venture further into the unknown. We'll never be bored again!

Linda Tulley

Grades 7-8

Hi everyone!

What a tumultuous year we have had! Thank goodness it is summer.

Even though it is summer time I am thinking about next year, especially since I am no longer going to be team teaching with Kathleen. Even though this is something new, I am excited for this new chapter my life is taking. I am positive that even though next year is my first year by myself, I can succeed because I have a very supportive team around me.

I hope you are all doing well. Have a great summer.

Dani