

August 2020

ABLE Middle School Families,

Your child's teachers have been hard at work preparing to launch their distance learning classrooms for the 2020-2021 school year. The teachers have spent time preparing and setting up their classroom in TEAMS, an application in Microsoft Office, through which they will conduct interactive, live classroom instruction daily.

They are prepared to assist each student with this transition to their new 'digital classroom', they are ready to answer any questions that you might have as well. Below are ways to keep our families connected.

Communication Platforms

- TEAMS online learning platform
- ABLE Web Page
- PowerSchool weekly grade reports
- Email
- Grade level weekly newsletter

Below are some simple ways that you and your child can be prepared for the first day of school. On September 8, classes will be held throughout the day. What does this mean? Your child will see and hear their teachers teaching lessons. Your child will be 'in school' with their teachers and friends.

Consider making a visual schedule for your student to help them attend every class. Attendance will be taken every period every day and will be recorded in PowerSchool. You will be notified if your student was marked absent to a class session. If your student must miss a class, communicate this with the teacher.

What you can do to help your child be ready for their 'digital classroom'

- Ensure your child has located their classes in TEAMS.
- Ensure that your child uses the school issued technology or a personal device.
- Create a visual timetable of their school day so they know when to 'be in class'.
- Encourage them to stay in touch with their teachers and ask questions.
- Create a distraction-free space with the right lighting, power, and supplies.
- Create a space where your student can remain upright while learning at a desk or table.
- Monitor progress and encourage your child to complete all assignments on time.

What you can expect in your child's 'digital classroom'

- Every teacher, every day will be holding **LIVE** teaching sessions using TEAMS.
- Teachers will be teaching and assigning work, projects, and activities weekly.
- Teachers will monitor students' progress and provide feedback.
- A grade level newsletter will be sent to your email weekly.

What your child can do to be ready for 'school'

- Set the alarm so your child has time to be awake and prepared for the school day.
- Review the schedule of classes.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Establish a schoolwork area, that is a distraction-free workspace where the student can work in an upright position, not laying down.
- Have all supplies and be **'ready to learn'**.
- Review the Online Learning Norms* (see below).
- Review the Attendance Policy* (see below).

The Middle School team is dedicated to providing a high-quality educational experience despite the physical closure of a building. We are passionate about continuing to educate your child through our 'distance learning classrooms' in TEAMS and look forward to your partnership with us. Please, don't forget to register with PowerSchool to receive weekly grade updates sent directly to your email!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me or your child's teacher.

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