August 21, 2020

Dear Cyber Families,

You can now access your child's cyber teacher assignment by clicking on the **Schedule** link on the menu on the left in the Parent Portal. If your child is new to the district (including kindergarten students), you need to add your child to the Parent Portal. At registration, you were given the necessary information. **If you need assistance accessing the Parent Portal, please reach out to your home school.** As you know, the cyber program consists of teachers from across the WCASD! We have a fantastic team of educators and they are excited to begin the school year.

Class Creation & Teacher Assignment: When we created the class lists, we did our best to place students together with other children from their home school. In many cases, we were not able to create an entire class of students from one school so we had to split the home school students into two or three groups. The reason is because we had to keep class size similar to what we use in the brick and mortar setting. For example, if we had 35 Fern Hill fourth graders, rather than creating one FHE class of 30 students and placing the 5 remaining students in another class, we split the 35 into two groups or maybe even 3 groups. There are some cases where your child may have a teacher from your home school, but most of the time that is not the case.

Technology Tutorial Videos: Early next week, the Director of Elementary Education, Dr. Missett, will communicate a variety of tutorial videos to help get you and your child started for our online learning experience. Starting on the first day of school, you will also have access to tutorial videos stored within Schoology and Seesaw, more information will come to help you access this. There have been many updates with both Schoology and Seesaw over the summer and we are excited to show you more about how these platforms will be your 'one stop shop' for online learning in the cyber program.

Schedule: To clarify the cyber schedule, while there are designated blocks of time (ex. Kindergarten Math 12-1pm), your child will not be sitting for that entire hour watching the teacher online. Our cyber teachers understand developmentally appropriate instruction and best practice. We will address this more specifically at the upcoming Virtual Open Houses. (K&1: 8/26 at 7pm, 2&3: 9/1 at 7pm, 4&5: 9/2 at 7pm). Our teachers will provide secure zoom links prior to the Open Houses.

The cyber program and schedule does allow for flexibility. However, we will also provide numerous synchronous (live via zoom) opportunities for children as well. If your child is not able to engage in the live sessions, they will be posted for your child to view at your convenience. Our cyber teachers will share their specific class schedule with live lesson/zoom times with you as soon as possible. Please know that at the elementary level, our teachers spend time at the start of the year establishing routines, procedures, and building relationships. The research is clear that taking the time to establish these critical pieces, sets the learner up for a more successful learning experience.

Cyber Picnic: Originally, we had a Cyber Family Picnic planned and scheduled for August 25th. At this time, we have cancelled this event, as we would not be able to socially distance with the size of our cyber school. We have approximately 1,100 students in the elementary program alone!

K-5 Cyber Family Guide: In an attempt to provide clear information about our K-5 cyber program, please visit the WCASD K-5 Cyber Family Guide. This resource provides answers to our frequently asked questions.

Our teachers and staff have been working tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure we are fully prepared for the coming school year. We are so excited to get to know your child and your family! Please feel free to reach out with any questions. Please share this Welcome Video from me with your child.

Have a great weekend,
Rebecca Eberly, K-5 Cyber Administrator