

Dear families,

Yesterday I announced the arrival of Spring, and today it snowed! To somewhat restore my credibility, I'm happy to point out that teachers have sent you the detailed information about how distance learning will work in your student's classroom - information that we had promised for today.

We are excited for distance learning to start, and to see you at the Zoom Gathering on Monday (see information below). We have been apart for too long. It has been fun to see different teachers connecting with their classes over this prolonged break.

Continuing Revelation

Quakers believe in a concept called continuing revelation. It means we acknowledge that we don't have all of the answers, but that we must be continually searching for truth. This concept is particularly suited for our next steps into distance learning. We know this won't be perfect and that is ok - we will be adapting and improving as we all learn together.

Relationships

At the heart of our Distance Learning plan are the relationships between teachers and students, and students and students. We will make mistakes, technology won't work, we will have to change plans and that is all ok. Progressive education is grounded in flexibility, curiosity and relationships. As we search for the "truth" in all of this, we will hold these things at the center. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your partnership in this work.

What You Can Do To Prepare* for Tuesday

- Read emails - Review the information your student's teachers have sent.
- Know what technology your child will be using - Have a plan for how your child will participate in the "synchronous" learning portions of the day.
- Re-read the technology policy with your child/children - [FSMN Technology Policy](#).
- Set up a schedule - Use the information to set up a schedule for your household. See the Parent/Caregiver section (pages 7 and 8) of the [Distance Learning Handbook](#) for helpful ideas. For class schedules see pages 9-15.

*Note: We know that caregivers are under a lot of pressure right now. Caregivers are taking on a role they haven't needed to do in the past and they are balancing this new role with other work and life demands. We are truly in this together-- teachers, staff, caregivers, students and the technology we are using to connect.

Do the best you can and if things don't go as planned, that is ok. We will figure it out together.

Zoom Gathering

For those of you wanting to talk directly with us, Sara and I are hosting an optional Zoom Gathering to kick off distance learning. If you want information about the call, see email sent on Friday, 4/3 titled *Preparing for Distance Learning & Zoom Gathering*.

Once Distance Learning Starts

- Tech Help - If you are having a problem with technology, try googling the problem (this will probably provide your fastest solution), if you are still stuck, email your student's teacher. If they can't provide a solution, fill out the [FSMN Tech Help Request Form](#). The [Distance Learning Handbook](#) outlines Tech support and also has a link to the Tech Help Request Form (page 3-4)
- Your Student's Teacher Will Be In Touch - Your student's teacher will email you regularly as part of a continuing partnership.
- Absences - If your child will be absent, email the front office as well as classroom teachers/advisors to report absences per regular expectations.
- We Are Here for You - Reach out to FSMN with any questions or concerns. You can email Sara at saraw@fsmn.org, or Rick at rckj@fsmn.org or the front office at frontoffice@fsmn.org.

Community Care Notice from PIC

We have our first community care need! A family (who would like to remain anonymous) cannot live in their home until it has a major repair (~\$1500), and income has stopped due to COVID-19 shutdowns. Here is the [PayPal link](#) where people can donate:

In partnership,

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