

Friday, September 4, 2020

Dear Hale Families,

And we're off! Next week, we will officially begin this long, strange trip. And while we sampled Distance Learning in spring, things will be a little different this fall. Throughout all of this, we must constantly remind ourselves of the chaos this pandemic is causing and the multiple scenarios each family faces daily. At Hale, we will be talking often about being flexible, understanding, and supportive. We continue to learn and better understand what families are going through and need so we can accommodate all students. We hope you too understand that the Hale staff have their own families and lives that we are trying balance.

I encourage you to provide us with feedback and share with your teachers any obstacles that may hinder your child's learning. I can't promise we'll have immediate solutions, but knowing what is going on will allow us to work on improving.

- While grade-level schedules have been shared, I want to remind all of you that the first few weeks of school will look a little different. Building relationships, setting up and teaching expectations, assessing individual students, and building structures and routine will occur.
- Remember that the school day will include both live instruction with students and independent activities. Grade level teams will share with families where to find assignments and recorded meetings that may have been missed.
- Specialist teachers (Art, Media, Music, and Physical Education) are working on lessons that can be done at home with little or no equipment. Student days will include a Specialist block and individual classroom teachers will link you to their sites.
- I know that many of you are coordinating childcare, PODs, or day camps for children. Please understand, that we will NOT add any external groups to our email lists, nor will we talk or work with individuals outside your family. Doing so takes us away from our work at Hale and potentially breaks confidentiality and privacy protocols. Thank you for understanding.
- If you are still in **need of a device**, please email sofia.vladimirova@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Student Supply Distribution** happened the last couple days for Kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. 1st grade supply distribution will happen on Tuesday, from 10-12noon. If you were not able to get to Hale for supplies, please let your teacher know so we can arrange an alternate plan.
- **Student Meals during Distance Learning** will be available for families. However, pick-up days and locations will be a little different. https://cws.mpls.k12.mn.us/2020-21_school_year.html
- The **Hale Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**, in collaboration with teachers, pre-ordered **classroom supplies** in spring 2020 for our 2020-2021 school year. Instead of handing out supply lists, the PTA is asking families to contribute **\$45 per student** to cover the costs of school supplies. Make donations at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/HaleSchoolPTA> (Please put School Supplies in the notes section.) **Any** contribution to the school supply program you are able to make (big or small) is appreciated and welcome!

*"Believe in yourself, learn, and never stop wanting to build a better world."
-Mary McLeod Bethune*