

Uncharted Waters

Team,

We are one month into the 2020-2021 school year, and once more it falls to us to navigate uncharted waters. We have been asked to provide an education that has been designed for the classroom—through a medium and a format that is beyond some of our expertise, as well as our comfort level. And our partners are the parents who have enlisted to join us on a journey without a map.

As we wade through these uncharted waters, we must keep in mind the latest mandates. And we must address the challenges that our families are faced with.

We must adapt our lessons to the present circumstances. Many parents are still working during the day. Many of them are unfamiliar with the technology of e-learning. Some of them will be unable to help their children with this new format.

With chaotic times comes creativity. Although the format has changed, and we can change with it. The lessons we provide through distance learning should be adapted to the circumstances. The work we assign should match the circumstances: students working on their own—with support from their caregiver—and our online guidance.

With this in mind, over the next week we will do the following:

1. Create a Parent Support Center to help with online learning, technology and instructional material questions. The Parent Support Center will offer in-person or virtual support two days per week.
2. Set-up distance learning hotline to support students and families each week day from 9:00am – 8:00pm.
3. Each teacher will host a virtual parent night that will focus on getting to know your parents, guiding them through the educational programs, and showing them how to gain access to them.
4. 100% of students will have laptops by the end of the week.
5. In addition to our Park and Learn Wi-Fi access on campus, we will be deploying two smart buses” to high-need areas to help bridge the digital divide.

This is our chance to re-create the dynamic between teacher, student, and parent.

Tim Harris – School Leader