

Dear Westminster Community Charter School Families,

As a school community we have all come together supporting one another in the distribution of work packets, Chromebooks, and food. We truly appreciate and value that everyone has risen to this challenge and the widespread changes we are experiencing in society. We would like to thank you for your support and patience during this extremely difficult time. As time passes, we will ask you to be patient as we continue to add and make changes to support your children and their continuity of learning.

Our staff created packets and set up Google classrooms in one day and we have learned a lot from these first few weeks. I will now outline the student work as we have a longer closure and will move toward some added instruction.

Students will have two different types of work:

Enrichment and Review: consists of informal activities that reinforce or extend student's prior learning. New standards and skills are not addressed through enrichment and review.

Planned Instruction: consists of formal teaching and learning, similar to a classroom lesson. Within this process, teachers plan new concepts or skills, or content aligned to grade level standards.

Depending on grade level or individual family situations, planned instruction will take place through either posted assignments on Google Classroom or manual paper packets. Some lessons will be provided on Google Meet and other digital platforms. Dojo and Remind will also serve as communication tools pertaining to assignments.

Kindergarten-Second grade will receive a second packet in the mail during the week of April 20, 2020. Third-Eighth grade will continue to have work posted on Google classroom.

As this may be overwhelming for you and your child there are a number of things that should be considered:

1. Teachers expect your child to give an honest effort and promptly communicate any difficulties they are having completing assignments.
2. If your child struggles to complete an assignment, please reach out to their teacher. They will respond within 24 hours, Monday – Friday.
3. Your child will receive feedback on the work submitted through Google Classroom.
4. Teachers will be working with your child to provide multiple ways to be successful.
5. The recommended time to complete assignments will be conveyed by the teacher.
6. Teachers and support staff will be calling and emailing to check in on progress and/or challenges.

7. School counselors and social workers are available to support students during these difficult times.
8. Please support your children and their teachers by creating consistent “school” habits and establishing consistent communication with their teachers. Teachers can call, email, DOJO, whichever way best supports your family’s needs.
9. A multitude of resources and information can be found on the school website – <http://www.westminsterccs.org/>

There has never been a world crisis of this magnitude. I am therefore asking that you keep in close contact with us to ensure your child’s academic success. Children can be reluctant to try new things especially when the work feels hard, so be flexible and try to help them adapt to this changing world.

Above all, I wish the Westminster Community continued health, well- being and safety. Our Westminster Pride is showing! Our families picked up student work packets and Chromebooks in two days! Our staff is learning to work with children remotely! Our kitchen staff has provided food from the first day of the outbreak and the office staff and engineers have helped keep the building running and safe. Finally, our children have had to learn to connect with our teachers in new ways! Our Pride has emerged and will only continue to be strong during these trying times.

With Pride,

Robert Ross
Principal