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Distance Learning Feedback & Programming Info

1 message

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Message from Taletha

Distance Learning Survey feedback, new year Programming

Dear PCS Family,

I hope you all are well and enjoying the sunshine!

There are two parts to this message. The first is a share out around the recently distributed Distance Learning Parent Survey, and the second is a description of the planning currently happening with regards to next year's programming. We know that many of you are curious and potentially concerned about what the school's onsite programs will look like come fall. Please read on for more information and contact myself or your site lead for more information.

Parent Survey Feedback:

Thank you parents for completing the Distance Learning Parent Survey. The instructional team at PCS has reviewed the results and created some actionable items in response to the requests you made. Please keep an eye and ear out for the improvements!

Many of you provided some really helpful and encouraging things you are doing at home in order to support the success of your child's program. I wanted to share some of the feedback here to inspire families who might need it!

The below are comments made in response to the survey question about what self driven activities families are doing. This is great stuff! Good job parents!!! I know I learned a thing or two about how to improve how I am supporting my own children. Thank you:)

- We write letters, read a lot (both fiction and nonfiction, both aloud and to ourselves), provide a lot of unstructured outdoor play time, watch educational videos as a family, observe our natural surroundings, care for our plants and animals, cook, maintain composting systems, discuss current events, and do art projects.
- We are also starting a garden and excited about having our kids help build planters as well as participate in caring for plants. We've watched Bob Ross painting tutorials and our son enjoys those, although they're a little long. He's working on reading a series of books and has extended his daily reading time greatly. We started a sourdough starter and the kids are learning to make bread with "natural yeast"

- Our kids are doing most of the cooking, looking up recipes, ingredients, making shopping lists, and then making the food. We have built a mile and half long mountain bike trail with lots of jumping features and banking turns. We're doing a ton of reading, art, and talking about current events.
- Jumping on trampoline between assignments, fishing and exploring while identifying plants and animals using iNaturalist, classes on [outschool.com](https://www.outschool.com), listening to educational Podcasts, lots of art!
- We have been encouraging the kids to set goals (physical, social, intellectual, spiritual) for themselves. They have a board where they have their goals written as a visual reminder. They set it up so that they can work daily on them a little at a time, leading to a larger objective. The kids have weekly evaluations on how their goals have gone. This has been helpful because it has promoted them to recognize several things; but mostly that they are in control of their own progression.
- We originally intended to implement a strict schedule, but we're finding that a more relaxed approach is working better. Meal times and bed times are relatively regular, but much of the day is unstructured. This has brought us together as a family in unexpected ways. Also, we started with allowing our student daily educational screentime, but have since eliminated it. His behavior has improved.
- We have a clipboards with checklists for our kids. They have to do everything on the checklist before they can have any screen time (other than for school). This makes our expectations clear, but the last week or so there's a lot less compliance with this.... :(It's a struggle to provide access to screens for school, but to limit access beyond that. We also have an "incentive" basket with snacks, etc. that they can draw from if they complete a book, get their checklist completed, etc. which provides some easy token reinforcement for desirable habits and activities.
- Keeping a regular schedule and being clear about expectations
- Generally not sweating the details. No afternoon coffee for the parents, so we don't get too uptight. Staying on a regular schedule
- 2 pages of homework gets a break. Each page equals 15 minutes of free time
- Created an "office" for our child consisting of a desk and work area
- We developed a dedicated work space for all of the stay home crew

Planning for Next Year:

As many of you know, there is much uncertainty state, country and world wide as to what schools will look like come fall. How much on site time will be offered? How do we best provide for appropriate social distancing for students and staff when we do come back? While we do not have these answers yet, we do have a number of plans we will share with you once they are more formally drafted. The basic idea is this: we are planning for four different scenarios next year. Which scenario we choose will be dependent on what the state level advice and regulations are come August. Below are the basic educational program plans we are developing. By the end of this month, we will share the draft plans with all families so that you have all the information you need to make the best decision for your child.

Plan 1: Business as Usual

This plan will look very much like what the site schedules were prior to the closure. Most learning centers will offer a four day a week on site program, along with the hybrid and independent study programs we regularly offer.

Plan 2: Modified Social Distancing Plan

This plan will allow for half the number of students as regular, to be on site at any one time. The on site programs provided under this plan will be two days a week, rather than four, and will be differentiated by grade level. For example, grades 3 and 4 would have a two day a week program, with the other three being distance learning; and on the rotating days, grades 5 and 6 would have a two day a week on site program.

Plan 3: Social Distancing Plan

This plan will allow for maximum social distancing at each site. This may be that only one grade comes in at a time, or that other small groups are identified to come in one day at a time.

Plan 4: Distance Learning Plan

This plan is basically what we are doing now. Students will not come to sites for in person work, but will continue to be offered virtual classes and support.

We understand this is a challenging and destabilizing time. We will do everything we can to support our families through the current distance learning programs, and to communicate with you clearly and in a timely manner around next year's plan.

Please reach out to me, your site lead, or your teacher with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education,

Taletha

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